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Andropov invites Arafat to Moscow

BEIRUT (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will visit Moscow early next month at the invitation of President Yuri Andropov, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported Tuesday. The Wafa report was datelined Tripoli, Lebanon, where the agency has an office. Diplomats in Beirut said that, if confirmed, the report was significant with regard to a rebellion within Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fateh guerrilla group. Mr. Arafat had been expected to head a PLO delegation to Moscow last month, but in the end the delegation went without him. This raised speculation that the Kremlin was awaiting the outcome of the Fatah feud, which is largely over his leadership, before inviting him.

Oman urges Arab peace with Israel

KUWAIT (R) — Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Al Alawi said Tuesday all Arab countries should make peace with Israel. He told a news conference here: "We see that either now, 10 or even 15 years later we must end the state of belligerency with Israel and make peace with it. In fact we are in an indirect state of peace with Israel by accepting United Nations resolutions which all call for Israel's existence." He said the United States and European countries had asked the Arab countries "to live in peace with Israel in order to achieve their objectives." Mr. Alawi said Oman would not take a unilateral decision in making peace with Israel "because we are not a state bordering Israel... we are not a confrontation state."

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Israelis, Syrians exchange fire

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli and Syrian soldiers exchanged tank and artillery fire in eastern Lebanon Tuesday, an Israeli military spokesman outside Beirut said. The spokesman said the clashes erupted after Syrian forces wounded an Israeli soldier with light arms. In retaliation, Israeli soldiers opened fire on a Syrian position near the village of Kfar Quq, northeast of the Bekaa Valley town of Rachaiya, the spokesman said.

Israelis attacked

AMMAN (Petra) — An Israeli military column was attacked Monday night on the Nabulus-Tulkaram road in the occupied West Bank. Radio Israel said the column suffered only two casualties during the attack, which took place near Anabta. The radio said that a curfew imposed on Anabta is still effective.

Shops bombed for selling Israeli goods

SIDON (R) — Bombs exploded at five shops selling Israeli goods in the Ain Al Hilwe Palestinian refugee camp outside this southern Lebanese port Monday, security sources said. There were no casualties in the dawn blasts. Statements left near the shops threatened similar action against those who deal with Israel. The bombed shops sell vegetables and other food, mainly imported from Israel. Last Thursday, gunmen in west Beirut blew up a truck loaded with fresh fish from Israel.

Lloyd's issues mine warning for Gulf

LONDON (R) — Lloyd's shipping intelligence Tuesday warned shipping in the Gulf to beware of mines off the Saudi Arabian oil terminal of Ras Tanura. Shipping experts said the mines would have drifted from minefields near Iran and Iraq, which have been at war since 1980. Lloyd's said its agents in Bahrain had dispatched a warning telex to incoming ships following confirmed mine sightings in the Ras Tanura area over the last month.

Izvestia says Iran sends Afghans to war

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet government daily newspaper Izvestia accused Iran Tuesday of aiding rebels in Afghanistan and of sending Afghan refugees to fight in the Gulf war. Iranian interference in Afghanistan had increased recently, it said, quoting an Afghan official as saying Iran's leadership was trying to spread its influence by making use of the strong Muslim beliefs among western Afghanistan's people.

'Hitler diaries' reporter on bail

HAMBURG (R) — Gerd Heidemann, the journalist who bought the forged "Hitler diaries" for the West German magazine Stern, was released Tuesday pending trial on fraud charges, a court spokesman said. Konrad Kujau, the dealer in Nazi memorabilia who has confessed to writing the diaries, had his application for release turned down on the grounds that he was more likely to attempt to flee, the spokesman said.

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Syrians, Libyans reportedly attack Fateh loyalists

BAALBEK, Lebanon (R) — Heavy fighting apparently involving Syrian and Libyan troops as well as feuding Palestinian guerrillas broke out here Tuesday, security sources said.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat charged Syrian and Libyan troops with fighting alongside rebels against his supporters and with preparing "a new massacre."

Security sources said shelling and machine-gun fire was "coming from all sides" around this ancient town in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

As shells slammed into Baalbek and were reported falling on a refugee camp nearby, Mr. Arafat appealed for international intervention to "put an end to the tragedy."

His plea to the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was reported by the Palestinian news agency Wafa, monitored in Beirut.

The PLO leader sent urgent messages to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, respectively heads of the two groups.

Wafa said Mr. Arafat's messages linked the Lebanon violence with "massacres in the (Israeli) occupied territories."

Attacks on Palestinians there "coincide with what is happening in the Bekaa and north Lebanon, the encirclement and shelling of Fateh bases... by Syrian and Lib-

yan forces with the Libyan authorities boasting of what they are doing," the messages said.

Mr. Arafat drew a parallel with events in 1976, when Syrian troops entered Lebanon during the civil war and stood by as Palestinians were massacred by Lebanese militiamen in the Tel Al Za'atar camp in Beirut.

"Arafat stated that what is happening now is preparatory to a new massacre," Wafa said.

Artillery shells hit Baalbek, one landing near a Lebanese army security post and wounding a soldier, security sources said. There was no immediate word of other casualties.

Clashes were continuing on approach roads to Baalbek, the sources added.

Local residents contacted by telephone said sporadic shelling was still taking place.

"Baalbek is living through tragic hours," the right-wing Falangist radio said. "Events are heading for a military showdown."

The Falangist radio said Syrian and Libyan troops were involved in the clashes on the side of rebels who oppose Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Arafat.

It said Libyan tanks were firing on positions held by guerrillas loyal to Mr. Arafat. The radio said there were dead and wounded in the fighting.

No independent confirmation of the radio report was available.

Lebanese warning

The "Islamic Amal (hope) movement" — heavily armed Shiite Muslim militiamen who control the town — Monday night demanded an end to the Palestinian factional violence and the closure of all bases held by Mr. Arafat's divided Fateh group. The move followed a week of heavy fighting between the Palestinians.

The Shi'ites are backed by several hundred Iranian revolutionary guards quartered in the shadow of Baalbek's ancient Roman ruins.

The revolutionary guards also warned the Fateh men Monday to stop fighting among themselves.

Previously, the local Shi'ites got along well with the Fateh men, whose bases are mainly in and around a big Palestinian refugee camp of 9,000 people.

But the locals were clearly worried that they would be affected by the Palestinian fighting. They said they did not want Baalbek to become "another Idlib," a reference to a Bekaa village where Fateh factions fought daily battles over the past week, causing Lebanese civilian casualties and a great deal of damage to houses.



A Palestinian youth, his rifle almost as long as himself, runs for cover Monday as fighting flared in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley between feuding Palestinian factions (A.P. wirephoto)

Israelis ring Falangists as McFarlane meets Gemayel

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli troops and armour ringed a rightist Falangist military base in southern Lebanon Tuesday in their first major confrontation since Falangists supported Israel's invasion of Lebanon 14 months ago.

The Israeli army, in a move widely seen as part of a plan to tighten its grip on southern Lebanon before a partial withdrawal to the area, staged a dawn raid on the base at the village of Kfar Falous, east of the port of Sidon, to force out the rightist militiamen.

The Falangists, fearing a clamp-down by their long-time

allies, refused to move. They had been ordered last week to close down the barracks.

Local rightists unleashed swarms of bees as the Israelis forced their way into the base. Scores of women and children joined the fighters in a sit-in, a Reuters reporter in South Lebanon said.

As Israeli and Falangist officers discussed the crisis in the encircled base, new U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane met President Amin Gemayel to present what diplomatic sources called "advanced ideas" on removing foreign forces from Lebanon.

Abu Odeh briefs Yugoslav official on Mideast crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh received in his office Tuesday visiting Yugoslav Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Dmitri Janjevski. Mr. Abu Odeh briefed Mr. Janjevski on Jordan's views on current events in the region, particularly the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and Lebanon, and their impact on the peace process.

Kaddoumi says PLO will not discuss government-in-exile

BEIRUT (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) foreign affairs spokesman Tuesday denied reports that the PLO would discuss forming a provisional government when the Palestine Central Council meets in Tunis Wednesday.

Farouk Kaddoumi, quoted by the Palestinian news agency Wafa, monitored in Beirut, said the question of a government-in-exile had not been discussed in recent PLO meetings, nor was it

proposed for discussion.

"Anything said in this context is not an official view, but merely opinions," the agency quoted him as saying.

In such circumstances, he said, the PLO "is not about to form a provisional government."

Earlier, the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan quoted a Palestinian official as saying the Central Council would discuss the formation of a government-in-exile.

Papandreou criticises pullout pact

ATHENS (R) — Greece, whose current presidency of the European Economic Community (EEC) includes foreign policy coordination, has criticised the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal accord backed by its community partners.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, in an address to the central committee of his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), said the accord worsened the situation in Lebanon.

The 10 community heads of government, however, in June welcomed the agreement as "a first step which must be followed by others."

Asked whether the remarks Mr. Papandreou made at the weekend were cabinet or PASOK party views, a government spokesman said Tuesday: "They were expressed by the prime minister and they are government views."

Mr. Papandreou said: "From the first moment we saw that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement did not constitute a first step in the right direction, but a first big step backwards. Instead of solving the problem it has worsened it."

Talking about the clash within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Papandreou said: "This confrontation that has emerged within the ranks of the Palestinians is a result of the dashed hopes of the hopes that you can promote a solution to the Palestinian problems through peaceful means," he said.

The remarks by Mr. Papandreou, who gave an emotional welcome to PLO leader Yasser Arafat at the start of the evacuation of Beirut last year, were among the most radical he has made on the Middle East in recent months.

At a meeting of community foreign ministers in May, Greece blocked a statement welcoming the Lebanese-Israeli accord. It said this was because the accord did not have Syrian consent.

But when the community's 10 heads of government, including Mr. Papandreou, met in Stuttgart, West Germany the following month they agreed that the accord was "a first step which must be followed by others."

Iraq reports heavy Iranian losses

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Tuesday its forces killed 1,200 Iranian troops and captured many tanks Monday in some of the fiercest Gulf war fighting since the conflict started nearly three years ago.

Official reports said nearly 6,600 Iranian troops had been killed in attacks on Iraqi border positions east of the town of Zubayyah, 100 kilometres east of Baghdad, since an attempted Iranian thrust began on Saturday.

A field commander, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said Monday an attack earlier in the day was repulsed by Iraqi armoured units and commandos after fierce hand-to-hand fighting.

Baghdad Television Monday night showed pictures of dozens of Iranian bodies scattered near barbed wire, believed to mark the border between the warring neighbours.

A report in Tuesday's new-

paper Al Thawra said hundreds of Iranian corpses were lying in valleys and on foothills opposite Zubayyah, about 400 kilometres south of another Iranian thrust launched on July 25.

Iran said Monday fierce fighting was still raging in the central sector of the warfront.

The Iranian news agency IRNA claimed Iranian troops killed or wounded 400 Iraqis and captured two Iraqi positions in battles near the Iranian border town of Mehran.

Ramadan returns

Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan returned home Tuesday after talks with the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the Gulf war.

"The Iraq-Iran war was among topics discussed" with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad

Al Sabah, he told INA.

Mr. Ramadan, a member of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, also said he conveyed messages from President Saddam Hussein to the two rulers on "the current critical circumstances faced by the Arab Nation and bilateral relations."

Kuwait, Oman urge peace

Meanwhile, Kuwait and Oman agree on the need to end the 35-month-old Gulf war, official Kuwaiti sources said Tuesday.

The sources were commenting on a two-hour meeting between Kuwait's crown prince, Sheikh Sa'ad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, and Taweel Ibn Shehab, advisor to Oman's sultan, Qaboos bin Sa'id.

The sources said the talks covered bilateral relations, Gulf Cooperation Council activities and the Gulf war.

Begin's popularity declines

TEL AVIV (R) — Only one third of Israelis consider Prime Minister Menachem Begin the best candidate for his job, according to an opinion poll published Tuesday.

The poll, in the Jerusalem Post, was the second in a week to report an erosion in Mr. Begin's popularity. It said 33.2 per cent of those questioned considered him most suited to be prime minister, compared with 41.1 per cent in May and 45.6 per cent in March.

The survey, conducted by the Mod'im Ezerachin Research Institute, showed that other top government ministers, with the exception of Defence Minister Moshe Arens, have also lost public support.

Mr. Begin, downcast and reclusive since the death of his wife, last month triggered public debate about his emotional health by postponing talks with President Reagan.

The poll showed more than a quarter of Israelis did not know who they wanted as prime minister while 16.4 per cent backed ex-President Yitzhak Navon, a member of the opposition Labour Party, for the post.

Spadolini offered Defence Ministry in new coalition

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister-designate Bettino Craxi Tuesday offered Republican leader Giovanni Spadolini the defence portfolio, political sources said.

But Mr. Spadolini has set his sights on the Foreign Ministry, a job adamantly claimed by the Christian Democrats for outgoing Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo or former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, the sources added.

Mr. Craxi, who is attempting to be Italy's first post-war Socialist prime minister, spent four hours discussing the tricky issue of portfolio share-outs in talks with leaders of his prospective partners—the dominant Christian Democrats and the small Republican, Liberal and Social Democratic parties.

Emerging from the last of the individual meetings, Mr. Craxi said he expected his attempt to end positively with a parliamentary debate and vote of confidence next week.

Asked when he would meet President Sandro Pertini to submit a list of his ministers, Mr. Craxi said it would be Wednesday at the earliest.

Happy Arrival

Jean-Claude & Rose Gluckman gladly announce the arrival of their newly-born daughter Zein at Al Khalidi Maternity Hospital on Aug. 2, 1983.

MIDDLE EAST

U.S., France promise anti-aircraft guns

Chad alleges devastating bombing raids by Libya

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad's Foreign Minister Idriss Misikine said Libyan air bombings on the recaptured northern town of Faya-Largeau resumed Tuesday with greater intensity, killing many people.

He told ambassadors in N'Djamena that the oasis town was bombed non-stop from 1815 GMT Monday night to 0110 GMT Tuesday, resuming at 0515 GMT after a four-hour interruption. Bombing had continued until around 0800 GMT Tuesday morning, killing many government troops as well as civilians, he said. The ambassadors he had summoned for a briefing on the latest air raids.

President Hissene Habre sent an appeal for help to the U.N. Security Council, accusing Libya of massing the civilian population of Faya-Largeau.

"The number of victims is frightening and dramatic," the message said.

He urged the president of the Security Council to do all he could to "bring back Libya to reason". The government has reported daily air raids on the oasis town, 1,000 kilometres north of the capital, since its troops recaptured it from Libyan-backed rebels last Saturday.

Libya has denied mounting air raids, as well as accusations by Washington that its troops were directly supporting the rebels led by former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei.

But Mr. Misikine told the foreign envoys that a large part of Faya-Largeau had been destroyed by air attacks.

"The Libyan bombers operate at low altitude, knowing full well that our troops have no anti-aircraft guns," government sources quoted him as saying.

appealed to France to send Jaguar strike aircraft based in Gabon, but diplomatic sources here said this had been ruled out because it would have involved French pilots.

An external relations ministry spokesman said the ministry never revealed details of arms being supplied, but informed sources said it was almost certain that automatic weapons of 20mm or 30mm would be sent.

These weapons, designed and produced by GIAT (Groupeement Industriel de L'Armee de Terre), have radar guidance systems and are effective against most modern ground attack aircraft up to around 1,500 metres. They can be mounted on trucks or tanks, are easy to operate and are designed to work in rough conditions, the sources said.

American weapons too

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has decided to send anti-aircraft weapons to Chad to help President Hissene Habre resist reported Libyan air raids in the north of the Central African country, the State Department said Monday night.

"We are making available to the Chad government anti-aircraft weapons to give its forces at Faya-Largeau a better opportunity to defend themselves against continuing attacks by Libya," a State Department spokesman said.

Earlier, the spokesman said the United States was reviewing its aid to Chad. The decision to send weapons follows weekend consultations at the State Department and a strongly worded condemnation of alleged Libyan aggression.

No French troops

PARIS (R) — French military intervention in the Chad civil war would be "unthinkable", despite an increasing flow of French arms to the government there, a senior defence ministry official said Tuesday.

France announced Monday it was sending anti-aircraft weapons to government troops reported to be coming under attack from Libyan planes backing rebel forces in northern Chad.

But ministry officials stressed Tuesday that there was still no question of direct intervention in the conflict in its former Central African colony.

"It is unthinkable that French units would use their equipment to intervene in Chad from their African bases," one official said.

President Hissene Habre had

Middle East issues given top priority in Japanese envoy's foreign agenda

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe left Tuesday for a two-week tour of the Middle East and East European countries for talks on international issues.

The tour, seen as a move to strengthen Japan's diplomatic role, will take Abe first to Romania and then to Bulgaria, Iran, Turkey and Iraq before returning here on Aug. 14.

He will be the first foreign minister from a major industrialized country to visit Iran since the Islamic revolution in 1979, and the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Romania and Bulgaria.

His stop in Ankara will be the first by a Japanese cabinet minister since the end of World War II.

Mr. Abe told reporters the main aim of his trip to Iran and Iraq was to strengthen Japan's bilateral relations. He had no intention of mediating in the Gulf War, he said.

But a foreign ministry spokesman said Japan could at least tell Tehran and Baghdad that bilateral trade, economic and technical co-operation would be enhanced by an end to fighting.

Mr. Abe's visit to Iran follows a recent agreement to resume work on the Bandar Khomeini petrochemical complex, originally estimated to cost \$3.5 billion.

Work on the complex was first interrupted by the revolution and again by the outbreak of the Gulf War, when it was 85 per cent completed.

In Baghdad, Mr. Abe is expected to appeal against Iraq's recent threat to attack the petrochemical complex. He is also expected to conclude negotiations on an extension of a deadline of Aug. 15 for Iraq's use of previously committed Japanese mixed loans.

In Turkey, Mr. Abe is due to complete formalities on Japan's pledge last January to extend a \$65 million loan and buyers' credits worth \$15 million to Ankara.

Mr. Abe's talks with Romanian and Bulgarian leaders, apart from trade and economic co-operation, will cover East-West relations. Japan's strained relations with Moscow and the current U.S.-Soviet talks on limiting intermediate range nuclear missiles.



FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS: A loyalist Fatah guerrilla manning a jeep-mounted machinegun on the lookout for rebel forces in the Bekaa Valley near Baalbek Monday. The loyalists

were blaming Syrian troops for helping the rebels. Monday's death toll was reported to be 42 and wounded 75. (A.P. wirephoto).

'More generous assistance' not promised to Israel, U.S. says

WASHINGTON (R) — The terms of U.S. aid to Israel were discussed by officials of the two countries here last week but President Reagan made no commitments on more generous assistance, the State Department said Monday.

A senior Israeli official was quoted by the Washington Post as saying that Mr. Reagan had agreed to give "favourable consideration" to requests that the terms of the aid be changed to take account of Israel's financial problems.

The unnamed official, who accompanied Foreign Affairs Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens to Washington last week, said Washington was asked to increase the part of military aid provided as a grant rather than as loans.

He also said the administration was asked to approve the use of some military aid for development of Israeli-produced weapons such as the Lavi fighter.

Asked about the official's reported comments, State Department spokesman John Hughes told reporters: "The president made no commitment, but the Israeli

has discussed with us on a number of occasions over the past few months the terms of our financial assistance as well as the use of FMS (Foreign Military Sales) financing to develop weapons systems."

Mr. Hughes said the subjects were raised during discussions with the Israeli delegation last week and "are under consideration by the United States government."

The focus of the U.S.-Israeli talks was on the situation in Lebanon.

Battles reported in Kabul suburb

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan guerrillas and government troops clashed for four hours in a Kabul suburb on Saturday night after helicopters pounded the area with rockets, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

Two helicopters opened fire on the area late at night, shooting 20 to 30 rockets at suspected hide-outs of guerrillas fighting against the pro-Soviet Kabul government, the diplomats quoted eyewitnesses as saying.

Fighting then broke out on the ground with mortar, rocket and machine gun fire continuing until 3 a.m. local time, they added.

Diplomats said the incident, the most spectacular fighting in the capital last week, appeared to have been touched off by a government ambush of eight guerrilla commanders.

The eight had been frequently travelling by car in the area to

co-ordinate local resistance. They were attacked on Saturday night, the diplomats said.

One was killed, but the others escaped. Helicopters were brought in to support troops fighting on the ground following the ambush, the diplomats said.

A lunchtime attack on an Indian restaurant in Kabul, with six or seven injured, and a city-wide blackout after rebels cut power lines took place last week.

Government-controlled Radio Kabul reported both incidents.

The diplomats also said that Kabul's second offensive this summer against rebels in Paghman, 15 kilometres northwest of Kabul, seemed to have ended early last week.

Soviet and Afghan government troops were withdrawn from the area and local officials, including the governor of Kabul, held a

meeting there on July 26 which diplomats said seemed designed to convince the people that the authorities controlled the area.

In fighting in the Paghman area in mid-July, the diplomats said, rebel machine-guns shot down one MiG fighter and one helicopter.

A helicopter carrying a Soviet officer and a Soviet nurse was forced to land in the area around July 21. Both were taken prisoner by the rebels, the diplomats said.

Pakistan lodges complaint

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Pakistan has complained to the Security Council that between January and June this year its airspace was violated 22 times from Afghanistan, where opponents of the Soviet-backed Kabul government have been waging a guerrilla war for nearly four years.

2 Lebanese hijackers get long jail terms in Cyprus

LARNACA, Cyprus (R) — Two Lebanese Shiite Muslims who hijacked a Libyan airliner to publicise the disappearance of their spiritual leader were sentenced to seven years in jail by a court in Cyprus Tuesday.

Mechanic Raja Arif Ahmed, 21, and student Mehdi Sadoun Hadj Hassan, 17, forced the Romanian Boeing 707, leased to Libyan Arab Airlines, to change course after taking off from Athens for Tripoli on June 22.

It eventually landed at Larnaca where, after all-night negotiations, a Cypriot cabinet min-

ister persuaded the men to release the 32 passengers and crew and give themselves up.

The two men pleaded guilty when the trial opened Monday to charges of seizing an aircraft by force, endangering the aircraft and its passengers and possessing a pistol and explosives.

In statements read to the court, they admitted planning the hijack a month in advance.

The said they had carried it out to gain publicity and spur new efforts to find their spiritual leader, Imam Moussa Sadr, who disappeared on a trip to Libya in 1978.

Over 95,000 Iranians set to make pilgrimage

TEHRAN (R) — Iran will send more than 95,000 people on the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca this year despite what it has called trouble-making by the Saudi Arabian government, Tehran Radio reported Monday.

The decision was announced by the leader of the Iranian pilgrims' delegation, Mousavi Khomeini, and the Islamic guidance Minister, Mohammad Khatami, after a meeting with Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, it said.

The radio quoted the officials as saying the Saudi government had "created trouble" over accommodation for Iranian pilgrims, but this would not stop them visiting the holy shrine.

Conservative and pro-Western Saudi Arabia is suspicious of Iran's brand of militant Islam and there have been serious incidents in the past between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi security forces.

Last year, Saudi Arabia expelled a number of Iranian pilgrims after clashes with police.

The Saudis accused the Iranians of disturbing other pilgrims, while the Iranians said the Saudis had prevented them from performing their religious duties.

Iran protested three weeks ago to Saudi Arabia that it had failed to issue visas to most Iranian officials wanting to travel to Mecca and the Prophet Mohammed's tomb in Medina to arrange accommodation for the pilgrims.

The Islamic guidance minister, who is also chairman of Iran's supreme pilgrimage council, has issued a statement accusing Saudi authorities of obstructing the work of the few Iranian officials they had allowed to enter the country.

Mr. Khatami said the Saudis had surrounded the Iranian officials with security men and forced landlords either not to sign or to cancel contracts with them.

Mr. Khatami said the Saudis had surrounded the Iranian officials with security men and forced landlords either not to sign or to cancel contracts with them.

Women appeal to Wazzan on behalf of missing men

BEIRUT (R) — More than 100 Palestinian and Lebanese Muslim women appealed Tuesday to Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan to secure the release of their husbands, sons and grandsons who they say have been kidnapped.

The women accuse right-wing Christian Falangists of kidnapping the men around the time of the massacres in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila last September.

With their heads covered, the women demanded Mr. Wazzan "meet them with chants of 'Where are you, Wazzan?' and 'Allahu akbar'". A gendarme told them Mr. Wazzan was not in his office.

The women, some in tears, crowded around reporters showing photos or Palestinian refugee cards of their missing men.

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His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday pins on a new pilot's wings during an airforce graduation ceremony (Petra photo).

King attends air force graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday attended a graduation ceremony for a new batch of airforce pilots, and presented them with their wings. He also awarded prizes to those exc-

elling in their training.

Addressing the graduates, King Hussein wished them success in their future duties and in serving their nation.

"This day marks the end of an

era and the start of another marked by determination and loyalty to the nation", the King said.

At the outset of the ceremony, held at the King Hussein Air College, the college commander made a speech outlining the pilots' training programme and the recruitment procedures which seek to secure competent pilots.

"The graduates will remain loyal to the Hashemite Throne and fully committed to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt", the King said.

The ceremony was attended by the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and senior army and air force officers.

Ain Ghazal dig extended to rescue statues

Text and photo
By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The second season of excavation at the 9,000-year-old Neolithic village of Ain Ghazal, where a rare collection of clay statues and figures from the late 7th millennium BC was dramatically discovered last week, will be extended to give the archaeologists an opportunity to rescue these and any other statues that may still lie buried beneath the earth.

This was announced here Tuesday afternoon at a press conference by Jordanian, American and British archaeologists supervising the work at Ain Ghazal. Director of the Department of Antiquities, Dr. Adnan Hadidi, outlined the importance of the statues, and thanking all those who have been involved in funding, promoting and conducting both the overall excavations at Ain Ghazal and the rescue work on the statues found at the site, which lies just off the highway along the northern entrance of Amman.

Dr. Gary Rollefson of Yarmouk University, co-director of the dig with Dr. Alan Simmons of the University of Kansas, USA, said the excavations would continue for an indefinite period of time to determine whether any more statues remain to be found in unexcavated areas near where the collection of four nearly life-sized, sun-dried clay or plaster statues and about five smaller clay figures were discovered last week.

Dr. Simmons said more work would be required this year to determine the exact context in which the statues were found. There are obvious remains of an arc-shaped stone wall near the statues, and just two days ago the arc-

heologists started uncovering a well plastered, red painted floor that might run directly underneath the statues and the associated smaller figures that lie in a semi-circle at their feet. This tends to suggest to the archaeologists working at the site that the statues may have been located within a typical room in a house of the Neolithic village of Ain Ghazal.

The conservationist who was brought in by the Department of Antiquities to supervise the rescue and preservation of the statues, Mrs. Kathy Tubb of the Institute of Archaeology, London, said she is using a chemical consolidant now to try and strengthen the statues in their original position in the ground, before lifting them out for complete conservation in the lab.

She is lifting out some of the individual pieces that are already detached from the main bodies of the large statues or the smaller figures. In order to minimize the damage they are suffering simply by being exposed to the hot, dry air after being sealed in the earth for the past 9,000 years or so. But she expects to lift the bulk of the statues out of the ground in one intact block, complete with the surrounding earth in which they are all embedded. Such a block would weigh several tons, and could only be lifted by heavy construction machinery.

Though the statues and figures are in relatively good shape, compared to similar statues discovered in a very fragmentary condition at Jericho in the 1930s by Professor John Garstang, many of them seem to have collapsed onto one another and have been compressed and compacted together. This makes it difficult to attempt to take the statues out of the ground one by one, Mrs. Tubb said.

Mrs. Crystal M. Bennett, director of the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History, and a veteran of 30 years of archaeological excavations in Palestine and Jordan, told the press conference she believed the statues discovered at Ain Ghazal "are one of the most dramatic and

important finds ever made in Jordan."

She said the Ain Ghazal statuary "starts to provide a firm link between the discoveries made at Jericho in the 1930s and the 1950s and the rest of the Middle East region, a link that is fantastic, unbelievable, and extremely important and exciting."

Both Mrs. Bennett and Dr. Rollefson said the "cultural material" being discovered at Ain Ghazal this year is providing solid clues about the transition that the Neolithic inhabitants of this area made from the pre-pottery lifestyle of hunters of wild animals and gatherers of wild plants and grains, to a more settled village lifestyle and economy based on the use of fire-baked pottery, the cultivation of plants and the domestication of animals.

Artifacts discovered at Ain Ghazal in the past two seasons include:

—jewellery and beads made of imported red and green stones, imported shells from the Red Sea and the Mediterranean regions, animal bones and polished limestone;

—chipped stone tools such as spearpoints, arrowheads, sickle blades, drills, borers, knives and general purpose cutting blades;

—small clay animal figurines, including one cache of 20 cattle;

—small clay human figurines, including "fertility goddesses" in the form of pregnant women;

—plaster bowls and plates;

—stone bowls;

—a few pieces of primitive pottery in the form of large, thick and very poorly fired pottery sherds that were covered on both sides with a red ochre paint that is so typical of the pre-pottery Neolithic B (PPNB) period to which the ancient village of Ain Ghazal belongs (7000-6000 BC).

Dr. Rollefson believes Ain Ghazal will prove to be an important pivot in the ancient villages and settlements of the Near East during the Neolithic period, and one that may have provided two-way links between Jericho and other contemporary sites to the west, Beidha and other villages in the south, and the Neolithic cultures in the northern area around Syria and Turkey.

The impressive collection of statues and smaller figures provide a firm link with the Jericho culture to the west, while the use of plaster plates and bowls is an equally clear link with Neolithic cultural practices heretofore only found in the northern tier of the Middle East.

Some 30 burials have been excavated at Ain Ghazal to date, most of which were headless burials.



General view of the 'Ain Ghazal excavation site, with plastered floor and walls of a Neolithic village house in the foreground. The large hole in the floor is a post-hole, where a large wooden beam would have stood to help hold up the house roof.

similar to the practice at Jericho and Beidha. But the Ain Ghazal dig has not turned up any of the plastered and decorated skulls that were discovered at Jericho. Ain Ghazal has, however, produced several skulls that were painted in red ochre—a new funerary twist that has not been seen at any other Neolithic site in the area.

Dr. David McCreery, director of the American Centre for Oriental Research in Amman, noted at the press conference that the Ain Ghazal dig is an excellent example of the fine cooperation among Jordanian and international archaeological institutions that is required if Jordan is going to have a chance to rescue much of its archaeological heritage that is so vulnerable to destruction in the face of the brisk pace of construction and development throughout the country.

Ironically, the Ain Ghazal site was first identified in 1974 when bulldozers, working on the highway leading into Amman from Zarqa, tore through the hillside and exposed edges of the plastered house floors of the 9,000-year-old Neolithic village of Ain Ghazal.

Dr. McCreery also noted that while archaeologists working in Jordan have known for many years of the country's rich archaeological heritage, this discovery of the world's oldest statues at Ain Ghazal will help people and institutions throughout

the world to appreciate the importance and richness of Jordanian archaeology.

Dr. Rollefson made a public appeal for curious people not to come to the site of Ain Ghazal hoping to see the statues or other finds from the dig, because the site is not open to the public and the statues are firmly under wraps to protect them against deterioration from being exposed to the air and sun. It is expected that when the statues and other artifacts are safely removed and conserved, they will be put on public display in the Amman Archaeological Museum.

The Ain Ghazal excavation is being conducted by Yarmouk University and the Department of Antiquities, in cooperation with the American Centre for Oriental Research in Amman. Major funding has come from Yarmouk University and the National Geographic Society (USA), with supplemental funding from the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, the Wenner-Gren Foundation (USA), the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University (USA) and the University of Kansas. The representative of the Department of Antiquities on the dig is Mr. Khaled Abu Ghumeima, and staff members on the dig team come from Jordan, the United States, Great Britain, Canada, West Germany, Australia and Scotland.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet appoints JVA president

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has appointed Mr. Munther Haddadin as Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) president. Until his appointment to the post, Mr. Haddadin had occupied the post of JVA vice-president.

Sugar shipment to arrive in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — A shipment of 10,000 tonnes of sugar imported by the Ministry of Supply arrives at the port of Aqaba. The ministry will deliver the sugar to ministry-run warehouses and special distribution centres throughout the country.

Talks focus on Indo-Jordanian ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'an Abu Nowar received in his office Tuesday Indian Ambassador to Jordan Pyare Lal Santoshi. Mr. Abu Nowar and Mr. Santoshi discussed cultural ties between India and Jordan and ways to promote and strengthen them.

Need for cultural movement emphasised

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'an Abu Nowar in a meeting Tuesday with the president of the Jordan Writers Society (JWS), Hashim and Yaghi, and members of the JWS's administrative committee stressed the need to forge a distinctive cultural movement within Jordan.

Children's play to be performed

AMMAN (Petra) — Department of Culture and Arts Wednesday presents a production of the children's play, Watan Al Assafir, as part of its efforts to form a children's theatre movement in Jordan. The play, entitled Birds' Homeland, is written by Fakhri Kawar and directed by Na'im Haddad, and will also be performed during the Jerash Festival to open August 12.

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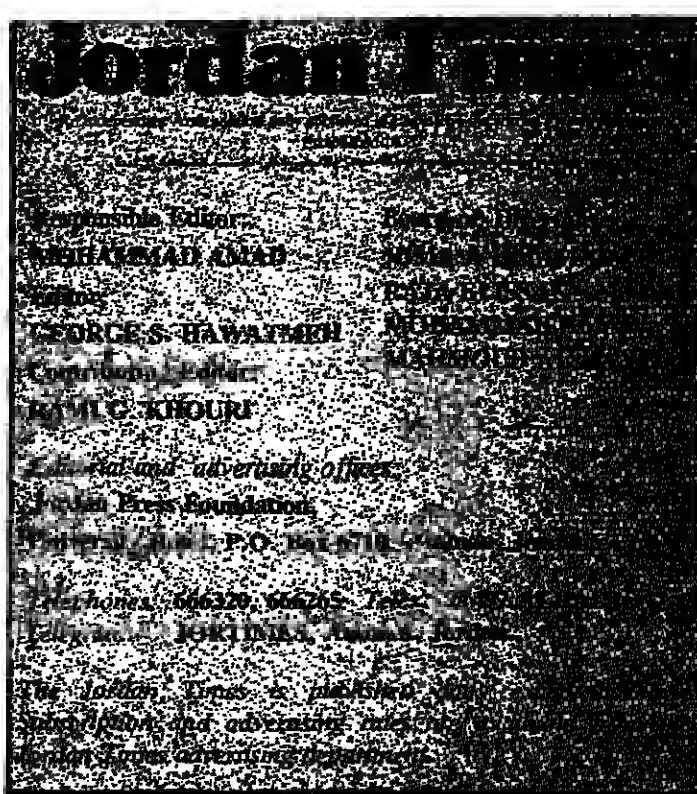
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Disarming the Falangists

ISRAELI analysts seem to believe that their army's clampdown on the Falangist-dominated "Lebanese Forces" in South Lebanon reinforces the impression, created recently by the Israeli cabinet's decision to redeploy behind the Awali River, that Israel is now determined to place its own "best interests" first—irrespective of past allegiances or commitments.

Israel's interest in Lebanon today, wrote one of the analysts a few days ago, appears to lie no longer with the Falangist Party in Beirut, now that the dream of a united Lebanon under a powerful pro-Israeli Falangist-controlled government appears to have been irrevocably shattered (presumably after the assassination last year of Bashir Gemayel).

On this side, Israel's latest moves to curb the "Lebanese Forces" are not necessarily seen differently, for we all know that the Israeli government has decided on, and is now preparing for, a long stay in the Lebanese South—and that is that. To carry out this plan, however, Israel needs two things. First, it needs to strengthen its hold physically of the occupied Lebanese territory, which, as Defence Minister Arens noted recently, cannot be done by having armed nationalist Lebanese (in this case the Beirut Falangists as very distinct from the Israeli puppet Major Saad Haddad) roaming the South freely. Second, Israel needs international legitimisation of its continued presence in that territory. By disarming the Lebanese Forces, starting at Kafr Falous east of Sidon, Israel thinks it can achieve both objectives at once, but mainly the second.

The Kafr Falous base is said to be the major supply route to the Falangists, who are fighting the Druze in the Shouf mountains. When it is closed down, Israel stands to benefit from a strengthened Druze hand, and consequently Syrian presence, in the Shouf, thereby making it much easier for the Israelis to justify their continued occupation of the South.

It may be true that Israel has never really cared much about the legitimacy of, or the lack of, occupying Arab lands. But, we must admit, it is pretty difficult to think of a better reason why the Israelis should want to disarm their Falangist "allies".

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Paving the summit's way

KING HUSSEIN'S talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia fall within the context of his plans to contact and consult with Arab leaders so as to try to achieve Arab solidarity and to enable the Arab Nation to stand firmly in the face of Zionist plans. The current situation in the Arab World and the disasters which the Arab states face and the differences that they are plagued by mean that the King's mission is a hard one and requires every possible effort.

The Zionist's ambitious plans are becoming clearer every day as Israel strives to evacuate the indigenous people from their land, and thus liquidate the Palestine problem. With the purpose of achieving all this, Israel maintains military superiority and consults a constant threat to the Arab Nation and to the region's stability and peace. Also Arab differences have reached such an unprecedented level that not even substantive efforts by Arab leaders to save the nation from total disaster can be guaranteed to succeed. Coinciding with the two monarchs' talks, there were reports about an impending Arab summit in Riyadh in the coming months to clear the current Arab political atmosphere. This means that the two leaders are concerned to pave the way for the summit by eliminating the existing Arab differences and creating a convenient atmosphere for such a summit.

Al Dustour: Not shirking responsibility

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein returned to Amman Monday evening at the end of his talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, which aimed at consolidating the Arab World's political ranks. The talks, which fell within the context of consultations and coordination between the two leaders, reflect Jordan's keenness to maintaining Arab solidarity and concern for the Arab Nation's interests. It was natural for the two monarchs to discuss the current Arab situation, especially the events in the occupied Arab territories, because they shoulder very serious responsibilities in our region and are assuming leading roles in the Arab World. Out of his concern to maintain strong ties between the Palestinian and the Jordanian peoples, King Hussein discussed the Israeli's oppressive measures in the occupied Arab lands and ways of confronting Israel's expansionist plans for expelling the Arab inhabitants from their homeland. Jordan is clearly aware of its grave responsibilities with regard to Israeli practices and constantly warns Arab states of the serious threat and danger inherent in the Israeli measures. Arab differences have caused certain Arab regimes to shirk their responsibilities toward the Palestinians and their problem, but Jordan, which is truly committed to the Arab cause, cannot follow suit but continues to work hard to regain Palestinian rights.

Sawt Al Shaab: Taif gives new hope

THE TAIF meeting between King Hussein and King Fahd represents a renewed hope for the Arabs after the despair and disasters which they have faced. The meeting ushers in the possibility of renewed efforts to clear the stagnant air existing in the Arab political atmosphere and paving the way for a summit that would tackle such problems. The two leaders discussed in Taif a host of problems but mainly Arab differences, the split in PLO ranks, the situation in the occupied Arab lands and the Lebanese crisis.

The two leaders are concerned with solving these problems and minimising misunderstandings existing between Arab leaders. Jordan in particular is keen to maintain Arab solidarity and joint Arab action because it is one of the parties directly affected by Israel's expansionist programmes in the West Bank, and the Zionist's oppressive measures against the Arab population. The Taif meeting is a first step towards tackling these Arab problems and enabling the Arab countries jointly to confront their enemies.

U.S. C. American policies irritate European allies

By Sidney Welland
Reuter

LONDON — U.S. allies are keeping a low profile on Central America, uneasy and worried over Washington's growing involvement but reluctant to say so publicly.

American diplomats say support for U.S. policy has been lukewarm so far in Western Europe, and that allied leaders have been slow to understand Reagan administration concerns. Press comment in some key countries has been sharply critical.

Even the British and West German governments, President Reagan's closest allies, have held back from outright public endorsement of the administration's latest actions.

Officially, the 10 nations of the European Community stand by a statement last month which said the problems of Central America

"cannot be solved by military means, but only by a political solution springing from the region itself."

British officials deny this implied criticism of U.S. policy, but other European diplomats say the statement reflected deepening concern over any show of U.S. force.

They say concern has increased with the diversion of U.S. warships to Central American waters, and the commitment of U.S. troops to exercises in Honduras, starting next month.

There have also been unconfirmed reports that Washington is considering a limited blockade of Marxist Nicaragua and the sending of more military advisers to El Salvador, as part of a coordinated drive against Communist penetration in the region.

Denis Healey, deputy leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party, says U.S. policy could lead to a catastrophe. "America is turning

the whole continent towards revolution," he said.

"Is Reagan drifting into war?" The London tabloid Daily Mirror asked in a full-page headline.

British ministers have been notably restrained, although Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine says Americans "can't for a minute ignore the political developments on their own doorstep."

London editorial comment has been mixed, with the liberal Guardian accusing the U.S. of "heaping more fuel on the flames," and the conservative Daily Telegraph calling for a full-scale blockade of Nicaragua to interdict Cuban arms supplies.

The London Times said suspicions would be fuelled by Henry Kissinger's appointment to head a special U.S. commission on Central America. Latins would be discouraged by his preference for "a covert manipulative style of diplomacy," it said.

Bonn has sent a special envoy

on a fact-finding tour of Central America, and officials fend off probing questions.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher called in the ambassadors of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, the "Contadora" group countries which are trying for a peaceful solution. He told them West Germany supported their efforts.

He also said peace could be best achieved by tackling Central America's social and economic problems from within.

Western diplomats say Bonn feels it can do more by trying to gently persuade Washington not to go too far, rather than by openly criticising Reagan policies. But opposition Social Democrats remain publicly hostile.

Contadora efforts are also backed by other European Community governments, including France, although its Socialist government has given Nicaragua lim-

ited military and other aid.

The Paris newspaper Le Monde sees U.S. involvement as a "dangerous escalation."

In an editorial last weekend, it said: "It is never safe to hold a match to a powderkeg." The leftist Liberation compared Mr. Reagan to a poker player with a bad hand who "bluffs to impress his partners."

In Italy, Il Tempo described U.S. policy as indecisive and confused.

Officials at NATO headquarters in Brussels said the Western alliance would have to consider its overall defence needs if the U.S. became bogged down militarily in Central America.

Australia's Labour government has warned against an expansion of U.S. involvement.

Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said last week: "Australia considers that military action will not solve the problems of Central

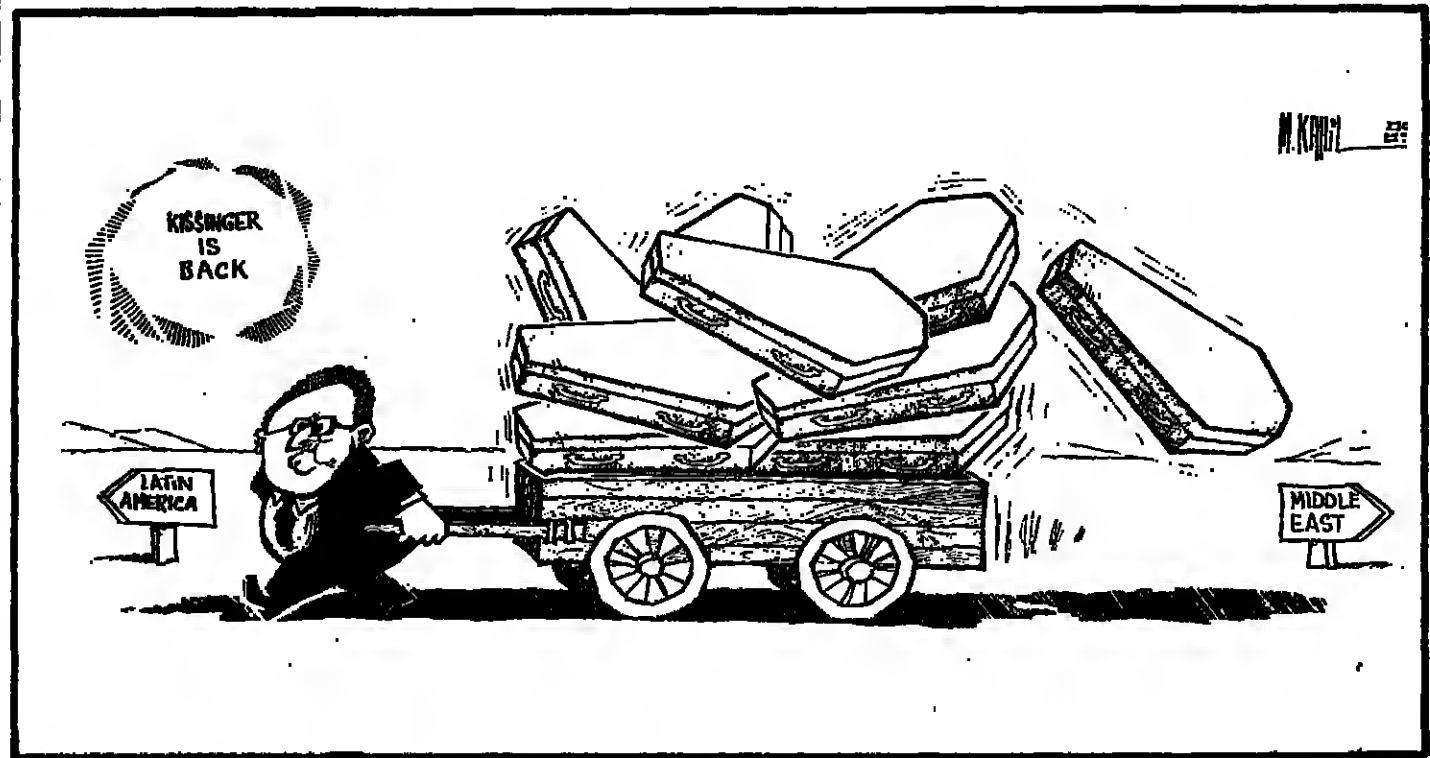
America and that it creates an environment which is not conducive to reform and reconciliation."

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez is at the centre of efforts by the Socialist International organisation to promote a negotiated settlement. He sees the Contadora initiative as the only possible alternative to full-scale war.

Mr. Gonzalez has joined West German, Venezuelan and Costa Rican socialist leaders in appealing to Nicaragua's revolutionary junta to set an early date for free, multi-party elections.

Peking has focussed on Central America to attack both U.S. and Soviet policies in the region.

Moscow now carries daily commentaries accusing Washington of trying to engineer a major regional conflict. But there have been no suggestions that the Soviet Union should provide increased aid to leftist forces.



Austerity measures displease Ghanaian public

By Patrick Smith

LAGOS — Head of State Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings is getting used to coup attempts in Ghana. He has survived four major attempts to overthrow him in the past year and he has led two successful coups himself.

After the latest coup attempt in June, the government acted quickly to tighten security. They imposed a dusk to dawn curfew, closed the recently re-opened borders and put out warrants for the arrest of a number of anti-government activists in the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) and the Association of Professional Bodies (APB).

Flight-Lt. Rawlings referred to the would-be coup makers simply as "dissident elements," but they were undoubtedly able to play on the unpopularity of recent government measures during the brief time they occupied the national radio station.

The irony is that the left-wing ideology of the ruling Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) has been forced to strike a compromise with the strict monetarist philosophy of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In order to regain some international economic credibility for Ghana.

The Rawlings regime has negotiated more than \$300 million credits with the IMF, and \$50 million with the World Bank and the African Development Bank, but only in exchange for a series of very tough budget measures, which have hit almost every part of Ghanaian society.

Part of the April budget package was a \$500 million reconstruction programme which the government hopes to finance by a mixture of credits from the multilateral agencies and involvement by private co-financiers.

The other part of the April bud-

get included a doubling of the price of petrol and kerosene, and of several basic commodities. The budget also introduced a complex system of surcharges on imports to finance bonus incentive payments to exporters. Although not a devaluation in theory, it will have the same effect in practice, as it will raise the price of some imported goods by as much as 9.9 times their previous cost.

The budget has won surprisingly broad support from the business community in Ghana, many of whom were highly suspicious of the government when it came to power 18 months ago. "Although I've held no brief for this government's radical politics, at least they've had the courage to do something about the absurd exchange rate. It would be very bad news if the government felt because of discontent over his budget," was a typical comment from one local banker.

The response from Ghana's workers and students has been less positive. The Ghana Trades Union Congress (GTUC) recently sent a memorandum to the government suggesting the budget proposals be phased over a three year period and that the minimum wage of 21 cedis be increased to 39 cedis. GTUC, whose leadership was entirely changed last year, emphasised it opposed the budget but not the government.

But the NUGS, which was one of the earliest supporters of the PNDC government, rejected the budget outright and demanded the resignation of the government. After a series of demonstrations which led to violent clashes between students and supporters of the government, the country's three universities were closed.

The NUGS has joined a hard core of opposition to the government along with the APB and the Christian Council, while the

business community has given the government conditional support on the basis that it has been the only government tough enough to tackle Ghana's economic problems at the root.

The professionals are vigorously fighting for their interests against government measures to tax them far more heavily, restructure their organisations and increase their accountability.

How successful opposition groups have been in exploiting the unpopularity of the budget measures is not clear. But one diplomat in Accra said that as practically everyone pays the black market prices for even their basic commodities, it would not make much difference to the average Ghanaian whether the official controlled price was doubled or quadrupled.

The stringent budget could hardly have come at a worse time, however. An exceptionally long and dry Harmattan season spoiled many of the food and cash crops, then a spate of bush fires laid waste about 120,000 hectares of farmland, and the rains came two months late.

A recent mission of the Food and Agricultural Organisation to Ghana estimated the country needed 192,000 tonnes of grains until the next harvest is due in September or October — "and even then, because of the appalling weather conditions, the prospects for that harvest are not good" said one aid agency official in Accra.

The crisis in agricultural production remains the biggest weakness in the economy. Domestic production of staple foods like maize, rice and cassava has fallen by over half in the last 10 years. Ironically for a radical populist government, there is much talk in the PNDC's economic programme of incentives and competition. The producer price of cocoa, which accounts for over 60 per cent of the country's foreign

exchange earnings, has just been doubled.

Newly-appointed Secretary for Trade, Dr. Joe Abbey, said: "We need to attract back the foreign exchange that has been taken out of Ghana, and the only way to do that is to make it profitable to use the money here in production".

Profitable enterprises like the breweries and the cigarette manufacturers should have little difficulty stepping up production under the new budget provisions. But other manufacturers foresee problems. As one company director said: "The government should remember that most of us are restarting production virtually from scratch. We have almost exhausted our cash reserves and our current production is as low as 10 per cent of capacity. So the question is: Where can we get the cash to finance the importation of raw materials at 7.5 times or 9.9 times their previous price?"

The PNDC government is hoping the answer to that will come partly out of the flurry of activity in Accra by representatives from the multilateral lending agencies and several international companies shortly after the budget announcement.

The recently-installed World Bank representative in Accra, Dr. Werner Schelzig, said that on the basis of an agreement with the IMF, the IDA would make about \$100 million available, mainly for the rehabilitation of the export and transport sectors.

To attract other sources of finance, the PNDC will need every ounce of its political skill. It will depend on how far the government can control the vociferous middle class opposition and yet retain the support of Ghana's increasingly radical working class and at least the active co-operation of its business community.

— Financial Times news feature

'Reagan's drive to win over world opinion'

The August 1 issue of U.S. News and World Report magazine carries an article under the above headline that says the U.S. is to process a strong campaign to close the "propaganda gap" with the Soviet Union. Following is the text of the article:

America is taking the offensive in the propaganda war with the Soviet Union.

The Reagan administration is churning out new overseas radio and television broadcasts, slick publications and other information services as well as citizen-exchange pacts — all aimed at enhancing the Nation's image and combatting Moscow's massive propaganda campaign.

The clear signal being beamed at the Kru Washington is determined to put up a tough fight for world opinion. To quote Charles Wick, director of the United States Information Agency: "Today, as never before, we are engaged in a fierce competition of ideas. Our adversary is the Soviet Union. It is time to take the initiative to make our case boldly and well."

To get the overall drive under way, the White House has persuaded Congress to earmark \$704 million for the fiscal year ending October 1, 23 per cent increase over 1982 despite pressure to trim the federal budget. For 1984, the administration is asking \$628 million, a 17 per cent increase over 1983.

Central to the expanding information campaign is a beefing up of the Voice of America (VOA), the mainstay of U.S. overseas broadcasting. The administration is requesting \$23.1 million for an overhaul of obsolete VOA equipment, which includes a captured World War II German transmitter in Europe. Also planned are expanded broadcasts.

Aimed at the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe by Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, the other U.S. foreign services.

Among other major features of the counterpropaganda offensive: — Project Truth, a new operation designed to combat Soviet "disinformation". It includes a monthly "propaganda alert" to help information officers abroad marshal facts against what the U.S. regards as misrepresentations in the Soviet media. Example: When Moscow recently mounted a campaign against new U.S. binary chemical weapons, information officers were alerted to stress that the U.S. has renounced first use of chemical weapons and is seeking an arms-control agreement with Russia on such arms.

— Dateline America, a service that distributes to periodicals around the world written features promoting American lifestyles.

— Radio Marti, an anti-Castro broadcast effort that is to be beamed to Cuba, Congressional approval appears near despite outspoken opposition and a threat by the Cubans to counterattack with transmission that could interfere with major U.S. radio stations.

— An Expanded T.V. service that

is to produce more programmes such as "Let Poland Be Poland," which was screened around the world last year. Improved satellite technology raises the possibility that the U.S. may eventually broadcast directly into the Soviet Union.

In addition to these new projects, more information officers are being sent overseas, is being increased, and government-sponsored youth exchanges are to rise sharply in the next three years.

Still, American officials stress that they face an uphill battle to overtake the Russians, who put an estimated \$2 billion a year into foreign-propaganda operations. Viceroy to jam U.S. broadcasts aimed at the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe, the Soviets annually spend amounts larger than VOA's entire budget.

Radio Moscow, the Soviet foreign broadcasting service, has 37 superpower transmitters of 500 kilowatt output, compared with the VOA's six and none at Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. The Soviets broadcast in 82 languages, the American services in 48.

Not all of the administration's ideas for countering propaganda have been endorsed by Congress. "Project Democracy," unveiled by President Reagan in a speech before the British Parliament last year, has been slashed on Capitol Hill. Proposed was a \$65-million programme of grants to private bodies. Such as the AFL-CIO, for use in promoting and fostering democratic principles abroad. Legislators killed much of the scheme as unnecessary expansion of existing efforts.

The administration claims some early success officials point out, for example, that the U.S. is making headway in today's key East-West propaganda battle — the struggle over deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe. They say that European opposition to the arms buildup was eased since American spokesmen abroad began arguing the Washington position more clearly and forcefully.

Nevertheless, critics complain that the objectivity that has marked U.S. information efforts in the past may give way to blatant boosterism similar to Soviet propaganda. For instance, Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) charged that Radio Marti is "likely to become a propaganda organ of the anti-Castro Exile Community."

There is no sign, however, that criticism is deterring Mr. Reagan and his aides. They are determined to push ahead in the global propaganda struggle, which they believe the Kremlin has been winning by default.

Falklands war still impedes EEC, SELA ties improvement

By Ethian Brommer
Reuter

BRUSSELS — A year after the Falklands war caused a breach in relations between the European Community and Latin America, the two sides are on the path of reconciliation but still face a serious obstacle, officials say.

Mutual visits and repeated calls for improved ties are evidence of common interest in improving relations, but the 10-nation community is worried about conditions that may be imposed on the new relationship.

Experts from Latin American governments, with presidents as ideologically diverse as Cuba's Fidel Castro and Paraguay's Alf-

redo Stroessner, have set out a list of conditions in a report to the 25-nation Latin American Economic System (SELA).

The report, to be examined in September by a full ministerial meeting of the 25, says the community must agree to refrain from economic coercion, promise it will not interfere in domestic policies and not discriminate against any SELA members.

Community officials say such conditions are unacceptable because they imply the 10 either have interfered or would interfere in an improper way in other countries.

Over the next few weeks the community's Executive Commission will quietly call in Latin American ambassadors one by one to warn them that if the con-

ditions are accepted by SELA in September, relations will not be improved, officials said.

Just over a year ago, after Argentina seized the Falkland Islands, Britain — which fought a successful war to regain the islands — persuaded its Common Market partners to impose trade sanctions on Buenos Aires.

The other Latin American countries, in solidarity with Argentina, broke off their two-yearly meetings with the community. Although all community-wide sanctions have been lifted, those meetings have not yet resumed.

"We are waiting for the European Community to react officially to the SELA experts' report," said Pedro Camacho, a Ven-

ezuelan diplomat. "At the moment things are still paralysed."

Yet inter-parliamentary conferences, increased community aid and negotiations with the Andean Pact — Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador — for most-favoured nation status all testify to attempts to overcome the Falklands trauma.

Relations between the two sides have never been excellent. They have had few economic ties, and European leaders have annoyed their Latin American counterparts by taking an active interest in the region's political problems.

When the military staged its coup in Bolivia in 1980, the community protested by breaking off negotiations with the Andean

Pact, of which Bolivia is a member.

When Chile recently arrested Gabriel Valdez, the president of the banned Christian Democratic Party, Europeans were quick to call in Chilean ambassadors and send protests.

The community has also made clear it favours the Central American peace efforts of the so-called Contadora group: Colombia, Venezuela, Panama and Mexico.

If the dialogue between Latin America and the European Community is not resumed this year, the two sides still stand a chance of rapprochement when Spain joins the 10-nation bloc, now expected by 1986.

Spain has long told Common Market officials that its close ties

with its former colonies will provide a major boost for European industry, opening up vast markets for a variety of goods.

It has also promised Latin America to act as its advocate in the community, improving both political and economic relations.

But, ironically, some community officials say the opposite may occur. They comment that many Spanish products — textiles, farm goods, sugar and steel for example — will enter the community much more easily than the same Latin American goods.

Moreover, Spain will have to apply the common agricultural policy, meaning such goods as Argentine meat will be restricted from entering Spain, possibly further straining relations.

China seeks ways to improve cave homes

By Jian Wen

BEIJING — A visitor entering a village on the Loess Plateau of northern China would discover not a single home; he would see instead treeless protruding strangely from underground and hear the crowing of invisible fowl and the bleating of unseen sheep. Looking closer, he would find a

sprawling complex of sunken courtyards, each the home of a peasant family. Stairways lead to below-ground patios, off of which there are sleeping quarters with vaulted doors and windows, kitchens, granaries, mills, toilets and animal feeders.

The broad-boughed trees, flowers, cackling hens and buzzing bees in the sunlit courtyards

lend a bucolic air that is far from the notion of "cave dwelling" as a crude, prehistoric life-style.

Xicun village in Henan Province is typical of the many underground villages scattered across the arid plateau, which sprawls some 630,000 square kilometres (243,000 sq mi) — an area about the size of Somalia — along the southern bank of the Yellow River and across the Northwest Plateau. The fine, yellow loess soil has been blown and packed by wind since the last Ice Age.

Underground living has protected the inhabitants of this, the "cradle of Chinese culture", during the countless wars of Chinese history. During World War II, cave dwellings and underground villages provided barracks, ammunition dumps and secret tunnels for the guerrilla war against the Japanese. For a decade the Chinese carried out their successful guerrilla war from their cave headquarters in the fastnesses of Yenan.

According to Jin Oubo, vice president of the Architectural Society of China, of the nearly 200 million people on this plateau, more than 40 million — more people than in all of Spain — live in cave homes. Offices, schools, hotels, workshops, garages and public areas are underground. Another 100 million people live above ground in homes of compressed loess soil.

"The cave dwellings appear 'primitive' and 'backward' in contrast to modern high-rise buildings", Jin said. "But they have something offer in terms of low cost, energy efficiency, architectural tradition and ecological balance. And, with improvements, they can meet contemporary architectural standards".

So the government is officially promoting cave dwellings. Since 1980, over 100 architects and planners have been sent to the Loess Plateau provinces to help peasants build and improve underground homes. National and local design contests have been run.

Aside from the open-to-the-sky pit courtyard dwellings dug in flat areas, there are also "terrace houses" dug into sloping hillsides. Living, sleeping and storage areas are vaulted, generally three metres (10 feet) high, three metres wide and 6-8 metres (20-26 feet) deep. Doorways and windows provide natural light, and the chamber may be two storeys, with a sleeping loft.

Another type of "cave dwelling" is an above-ground structure, usually stone or mud brick, with a vaulted cave system below ground.

Peasants can dig their homes themselves. Cave dwellings save energy, as they are warm in winter and cool in summer. No energy is needed to bake bricks or haul building materials long distances. A

cave dwelling is fireproof, and usually costs only 20 per cent surface brick houses.

"However, cave dwellings have problems", Jin said, "mainly poor ventilation and light, and the threat of soil erosion and landslides from heavy rains, or dampness due to improper site selection or crude construction".

It is such problems that the architects, working with the dwellers themselves, are trying to solve.

A modern cave dwelling has a large window beside the doorway, as well as other openings for light. It has ventilation shafts. Bricks, stones and lime are used to coat the facades and walls and to pave the floors, to strengthen the cave against erosion and dampness.

Peasants are being encouraged to pick sites with an eye to sunlight, water supply and sewage disposal, and away from potential erosion and landslides. Underground cisterns are being dug to drain rainwater before it floods courtyards, and sloping walkways to sunken courtyards are being improved to ease the movement of small farm machines.

Layers of plastic or asphalt felt are being sandwiched into loess roofs to help them resist rain and at the same time make possible the planting of short-root crops, fruits and vegetables, or even of pasturage on cave roofs.

Such improvements are simple, feasible and within the means of the families which live in such



dwellings.

"In the long run, it should become possible to apply newer technology such as electricity, mod-

ern water supply and sewage systems, and cement, kiln-baked brick, and other advanced building materials to "modernise"

cave construction and improve their dwellers' comfort", said Jin.

— Earthscan feature

New York worried over violent aftermath of Diana Ross concert

By Arthur Spiegelman

Reuter

NEW YORK — For a city that loves parties — it even gave one for the 100th birthday of the Brooklyn Bridge — there is a lot of soul-searching in New York over the ugly ending in its latest fling. Diana Ross sang her heart out for two nights in Central Park. Her first performance was cut short by a rain storm and the second ended with her singing "All For One And One For All" as hundreds of youths went on the rampage.

They attacked concertgoers leaving the park and the violence spilled into the streets, stretching to midtown Manhattan before ending in Times Square.

Customers at the park's elegant tavern on the green were also attacked.

An estimated 350,000 people attended each night of the free concert, never expecting the rain that marred the first night nor the

mayhem that climaxed the second.

They were not alone. Last week the police were accused of being unprepared or of not doing their job.

Police officials maintained that although they were caught by surprise they acted professionally to contain the situation.

Others disagree, like the Frenchman beaten by up to 20 youths, who said police told him, "that's life, good-bye."

Police admit that they initially misjudged the situation, thinking that any violence would happen inside the park, not outside. More than 1,000 police were stationed within the park but found themselves chasing shadows as youths darted out of different park exits.

The officials said they detected no advance warning that trouble was brewing, possibly because of a lack of plainclothes detectives working the crowd.

About 200 people reported being either robbed or mugged and 34 youths were specifically arrested for acts of violence not in a total of 83. The remainder were detained during the concert for narcotics offences, police said.

Those arrested were young blacks and, as one of the judges who arraigned them said: "Basically they were unemployed. The problem is black youth, 49 per cent unemployed. They have no jobs."

Another judge compared the mayhem to the 1977 New York City blackout in which thousands of shops were looted in black and hispanic areas and the city lost its veneer of civilisation on a sweltering summer's night.

But in the blackout, buildings were attacked, not people. Last week's attacks consisted of random beatings, purse snatching and ripping of gold chains from people's necks.

Henry Stern, the city's new parks commissioner, blamed the melee on "anti-social" elements. He vowed that pop concerts would continue in the park because the city of New York would not be intimidated. "We will never surrender New York to a small band of hoodlums," he declared.

But he said the city would think twice about billing pop stars that might attract large numbers of teenagers into the park. A performance of the New York Philharmonic would go on as scheduled for next month, he said.

The controversy over the Ross concert comes at a time when police have been accused by many black leaders of acting in brutal fashion towards minorities.

A recent congressional hearing on the subject here was cancelled before it started because it attracted too many angry Harlem residents.

Some New Yorkers drew a connection between the hearing and the violence saying that police, worried about being criticised for the way they do their job, were simply not doing their job.

Mayor Edward Koch, one who drew the connection, told police that neither brutality nor laxness would be tolerated.

He also demanded that those who criticised police should also criticise the youths in the concert melee, saying, "This kind of lawlessness can only be stopped if every part of our community declares such violence to be unacceptable."

But for others, the problem lies in the continuing despair of the city's ghettos where unemployment, drugs and lawlessness have become a part of life.

Diana Ross simply put a full-page notice in the New York Times saying "thank you" to the hundreds of thousands who peacefully enjoyed her concerts.



Diana Ross with Billy Dee Williams in the film "Lady Sings the Blues". (file photo)

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Millions share Coe's disappointment

Coe's medical record over the

The closing date for entries passed last Thursday but the British Amateur Athletics Board had

It was felt that Overt could harm his 1,500 metres chances by tackling the 800 metres as well, but when the selectors asked the World Championship organisers for permission to replace Coe in the 800 metres with a runner already nominated for another event, it seemed likely they had Overt in mind.

"I am sorry to hear Marita will not run the 400 metres," she said. "I was looking forward to the battle."

Los Angeles Olympic officials to visit Moscow

Benjamin is rated 51st in the world. In their only previous meeting, on a grass court in Australia

Ruzici beat Rafaella Reggi of Italy, 6-2, 6-4, and Garrison needed only 56 minutes to beat Barbara Bramblett of the United States, 6-2, 6-1. Gadusek beat Kat-

Sukova value. Benjamin came back from a 5-2 deficit in the first set. She saved a set-point in the ninth game and went on to win four straight games for a 6-5 lead. Sukova held serve after two de-

In the final set Benjamin took a 5-0 lead before losing her serve, but she fought back to win the match that lasted one hour and 45 minutes.

American teenager upsets sixth-seeded Czechoslovak

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Seeds get through 1st round of tennis tourney

"This is my first tournament in three weeks and it took me a while to get going," Scanlon said.

Soviets bid to stage 1990 World Cup finals

A FIFA executive committee meeting on Dec. 8 will decide the 1990 World Cup host country, basing its decision on a special committee's recommendations. FIFA secretary Joseph Blatter said

East German Beyer keeps winning despite varied form

22.22 in Los Angeles last month, he said: "My performance varies enormously. I don't know."

latest world record will be a World Championship boost -- "it's a psychological advantage."

throw be slipped and needed careful medical attention to heal the

Clerc bags 3rd consecutive tennis title

The break was enough to give Clerc the opening set and he secured a comfortable 6-5 victory.



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Soviet grain harvest still faces problems

MOSCOW (R) — This year's Soviet grain harvest, expected to be the best for five years, is still facing problems caused by the weather and human incompetence, an official agricultural newspaper said Tuesday.

Weather conditions had complicated the grain harvest in several regions, with growth stunted in some, crops sparse in others and flattened down in yet others, the newspaper Selskaya Zhizn (Village Life) said.

The newspaper gave no details of which problems prevailed in which regions. Hail is normally responsible for flattening grain but complaints about the weather so far have been of high temperatures and drought in the south.

Tuesday's Selskaya Zhizn editorial said there was still danger of unacceptable losses caused by delays in getting the crops from the fields through the threshing process and into state grain elevators within the ideal period of 10 to 12 days.

Meanwhile, a senior Reagan administration official said Monday a new five-year grain sale pact with the Soviet Union should be viewed as a pragmatic business agreement rather than a significant political development.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed firmer as prices rallied from a narrowly mixed opening on light demand in a thin market, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was up 9.5 at 716.6.

The mixed opening was prompted by continued concern over the near term direction of U.S. interest rates but some light buying emerged and prices edged up. Glaxo rose 30p on further U.S. buying to 935p. It earlier announced that Morgan Guaranty Trust's nominee company holds about 16 per cent of its issued share capital. Beecham was up 11p at 351p after an opening 2p loss.

U.S. shares were mixed with IBM up 7 1/2 at £79-11 1/2 while gold shares were mainly firmer on the back of the bullion price.

Government bonds closed with gains stretching to 3/4 point at the longer end but dealers said that trading was thin ahead of the start Tuesday of the U.S. treasury refunding auctions.

Among leading industrials Boots was up 6p at 172p while gains of between 6p and 11p were noted in Grand Metropolitan, B.P. and Plessey. Pilkingtons announced it is to merge certain operations in South Africa with Plate Glass and Shatterproof Ltd. The shares closed unchanged at 233p after 238p.

Banks recovered some of Monday's losses with Barclays, which is due to report interim results on Friday, adding 5p at 484p. Nat West was up the same amount at 624p, dealers said.

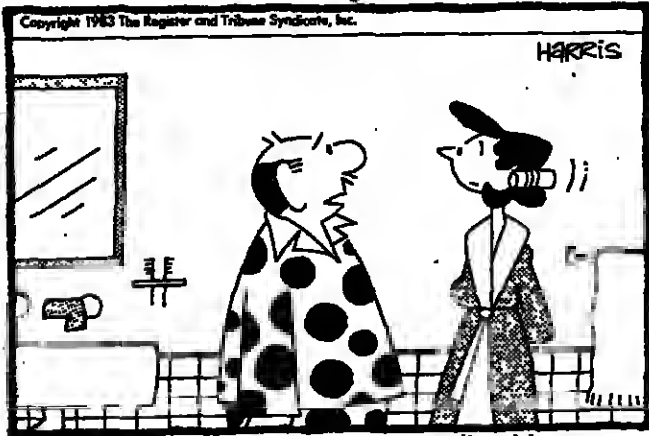
LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling...	1.5118/28	U.S. dollars —
One U.S. dollar	1.2333/36	Canadian dollars
	2.6600/10	West German marks
	2.9715/25	Dutch guilders
	2.1300/00	Swiss francs
	53.263/1	Belgian francs
	8.0000/0120	French francs
	1574.00/1575.00	Italian lire
	242.90/243.00	Japanese yen
	7.4210/60	Swedish crowns
	7.4210/60	Norwegian crowns
	9.5620/71	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	413.60/414.10	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I don't think I can stay on my diet. I just ate a whole box of mint dental floss!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YEHMR

DAUTI

PHARME

RYNFEZ



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIPE POISE JACKAL PEWTER
Answer: What the judge gave the guy who was arrested for stealing a watch — THE "WORKS"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahrain trade surplus narrows

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's trade surplus in 1982 narrowed to 22.5 million Bahraini dinars (\$50 million) from 84 million dinars (\$225 million) in 1981, a spokesman for the Bahrain Monetary Agency said Tuesday. He told Reuters the country's exports during the year totalled 1,424 billion dinars (\$3.85 billion) and imports 1,402 billion dinars (\$3.80 billion).

U.K. economy recovers slowly

LONDON (R) — The economic recovery in Britain is continuing but remains slow and fragile, the British employers' organisation reported Tuesday. A quarterly survey by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) showed output levels were rising steadily but there was a lower level of optimism among businessmen than at the time of the last survey in April.

S. Arabia cuts LPG prices

TOKYO (R) — Saudi Arabia's state-run oil firm Petromin has told Japanese importers it cut its Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) price by \$10 a tonne to \$270 with effect from Aug. 1. Nippon Petroleum Gas Company said. It said this followed a request by a group of 10 Japanese LPG importers and distributors for a reduction in the price of LPG of \$50 to \$60 a tonne.

Eastman Kodak profits decline

ROCHESTER, New York (R) — Eastman Kodak, citing difficulties overseas, Monday reported that its profits continued to fall in the second quarter and that it would face "severe pressure" for the rest of 1983. Kodak earned \$169.4 million on sales of \$2.40 billion for its latest quarter, compared with profits of \$248.3 million on sales of \$2.43 billion in the second quarter of 1982. For the first six months of this year, Kodak earned \$218.8 million on sales of \$4.53 billion compared with profits of \$429.6 million on sales of \$4.68 billion in the first half of last year.

Morocco increases food prices

RABAT (R) — Morocco's government increased prices for certain basic foods Monday by between seven and 67 per cent in line with austerity measures passed last week by parliament. Butter prices are raised by 67 per cent, cooking oil by 33 per cent, lump sugar by 16 per cent and cake flour by 7.5 per cent. The new prices follow the government's decision to cut state subsidies by 20 per cent from 2,000 to 1,600 million dirhams (\$230 million) this year. The agency said the legal minimum wages in industry and agriculture were being raised by 20 per cent, and taxes on higher incomes were being increased.

Ministers agree on joint oil action

PUERTO LA CRUZ, Venezuela (R) — Four countries producing 81 per cent of Latin America's oil output agreed Monday night to work towards joint action in support of their oil industries, Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador and Trinidad-Tobago, whose combined output average five million barrels per day in 1982, announced the decision at the end of a closed-door meeting here between their energy ministers.

W. German industrial output rises

BONN (R) — West German industry achieved its best production levels in June for 13 months, underlining that demand is again on the way up after a two-year recession. Total output in June provisionally rose 1.9 per cent above levels in May this year and June 1982. Revised results for May also show a one per cent rise from April instead of no change as originally estimated.

OAPEC stresses pollution controls

BAHRAIN (R) — The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Tuesday called on Arab oil producers to tighten controls on oil pollution.

Central banks' selling stems dollar rise

LONDON (R) — The dollar fell back against major currencies Tuesday as the United States, Japanese, West German and French central banks intervened in foreign exchange markets to halt its dramatic advance of the past week.

The concerned official action was the first since major industrial nations agreed at the Williamsburg economic summit last May to cooperate in calming disorderly markets, but dealers were divided over its likely long-term effect.

Dollar values in the Far East and Europe fell sharply from Monday's record levels, but later steadied on European exchanges despite open selling by the West German Bundesbank and the Bank of France.

A Bundesbank spokesman in Frankfurt said the official selling of dollars was "designed to counter the danger of a development that feeds on its own momentum, which may lie in the current rapid and strong overshooting of the dollar."

Dealers said the Bundesbank sold \$47.35 million at the midday Frankfurt fixing as the dollar was set at 2.6605 marks compared with Monday's eight-year high of 2.6675.

Some dealers said the West German action appeared to be only a smoothing operation rather than an attempt to prevent a further dollar rise.

But major central banks, including the U.S. Federal Reserve, were again detected in the Far Eastern and European markets Tuesday.

The joint intervention was first acknowledged by a U.S. treasury spokesman in Washington in response to market rumours.

In an official statement later confirmed in Tokyo and Frankfurt, he said the three banks had sold dollars on Friday and again Monday.

The greatest effect of the intervention was felt by the French franc, which Monday closed at an all-time low of 84.645 to the dollar but was trading Tuesday at around eight to the dollar.

Dealers said the Bank of France, which appeared to have entered the market later than the three other central banks, had sold \$50 to \$60 million and 200 million marks in Paris and had also been detected selling dollars in London.

Less volatile currencies like the yen and the Swiss franc were only slightly affected by the intervention.

The dollar traded just below 243 yen, one yen below Monday's close, and around 2.14 Swiss francs against Monday's 2.1455. Sterling, which until Monday had kept pace with the dollar, was

little traded Tuesday at around \$1.51.

Other dealers said confirmation of the concerned central bank action had failed to undermine sentiment in favour of the dollar, whose underlying strength could push it yet higher when the official selling ended.

They said commercial dollar sales has not been great and the Soviet Union had been buying the currency after its fall in the Far East.

Among factors favouring the dollar is the general belief that key U.S. interest rates will soon rise as the Federal Reserve Board tightens its monetary policy to curb money supply growth.

The prospect of further capital inflows into the United States and the continuing tensions in the Middle East and Central America will more than offset worries over the size of the U.S. current account payments deficit, the dealers said.

Market analysts agreed that the U.S. intervention was unlikely to be prolonged.

The Reagan administration has repeatedly opposed official action as a long-term instrument for controlling exchange rates, and its interpretation of the Williamsburg agreement to intervene in "disorderly markets" was expected to be narrow.

France accuses U.S.

In Paris senior French officials, reacting to the franc's plunge to a record low against the dollar, have blamed United States policy for France's current economic woes.

Finance Minister Jacques Delors in a radio interview accused the U.S. of reneging on promises made earlier this year to reduce its budget deficit and domestic interest rates in order to ease pressure on the franc.

"How can the Americans call for solidarity from their allies in the diplomatic and political arena if they plunge Europe into a still deeper crisis?" Mr. Delors asked.

"In any case, as regards the dollar, the Americans have not followed up their commitments," made at the Williamsburg summit of industrialised nations in May, he said.

Mr. Mauroy told the newspaper Quotidien De Paris Monday that the government's austerity plan to reduce inflation to eight per cent this year and cut a massive trade deficit was on course.

"If I had to do it again, I would do it the same way," he said.

But informed sources said internal divisions were building up in the socialist party over possible new tax increases to balance the budget and redress a social security deficit.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A heavy and frustrating influence is hanging over you and it is necessary that you keep as cheerful as you can and don't force issues. You would be wise not to rely on others.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Business matters can be hard to handle until lunchtime and then you can avoid one who is unreliable.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Rise above that feeling of depression and later be sure to handle that business matter well.

GEMINI (May 21 to Jun 21) Forget that worrying in and be more practical and use good judgment later, so that you do not make a mistake.

MOON CHILDREN (Jun 22 to July 21) Avoid that angry and forceful friend and conditions later are rather restricting, but rise above them.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Handle business matters well in the morning and later be very diplomatic with your friends. Pay that pressing bill.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Avoid that new contact who has an eye on your assets. Study the actions of one in power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be sure the promises you make in business are those you can keep, and later do not go off on any tangents.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't permit a partner to do something that you do not approve of. Keep a promise you made.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be determined and you get that work done well. Make a new partner explain agreements.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are angry with your loved one, but remain calm. Make sure you are not extravagant.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Take a walk and avoid an argument at home, and soon it will be over. Also sidestep one who gossips too much.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A day to remain calm, cool and collected, both in business and at home since the situation is rather tense.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will early show much ability at getting into the core of money matters, repairing property, building, etc. so alert the education along such lines. Later in life your progeny will develop selling ability.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

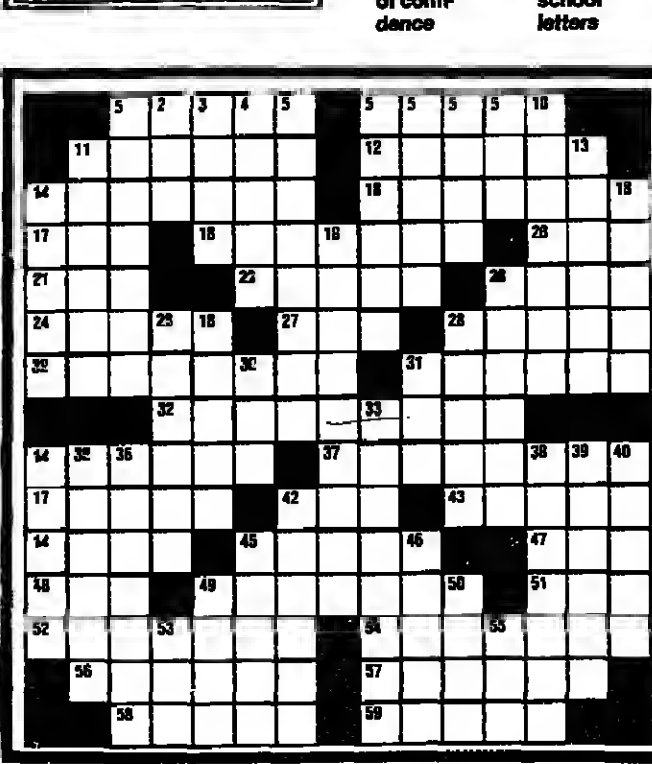
THE Daily Crossword

By William Canine

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Abrupt	1 Lodge
2 declivity	2 member
3 Denizens of	3 Preserve
4 the fold	4 Fish sauce
5 Muse of	5 Brooks
6 comedy	5 Like a
7 Jungle	6 mansion
8 drum	6 Dependable
9 Actress	7 Miserable
10 Linda	7 Miserable
11 Birman	8 Near East
12 Parsian	8 Greek
13 friend	9 ruler
14 Sour milk	9 Greek
15 Mrs. in	10 Haphazard
16 Madrid	10 try
17 Take the	11 Mexican
18 helm	11 dish
19 Hold up	12 Condition
20 30s dance	12 of con-
21 step	13 dance

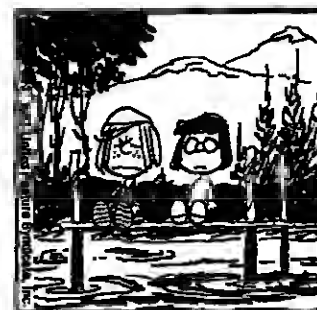
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

SAIAN	PISIN	AWIRIE
HAIRE	ALAT	MOUES
ARTIA	WOOS	AYLAIS
ROLLINGS	VOYER	
UNSTOES	ENSLAIVE	
AEIN	ZEAL	STARD
GRASIS	SHIT	ANIRUM
HER	ETIA	STAGES
ECRE	MAIS	ATY
SITIN	TER	CLANISE
STONIE	MOUDITAIN	
ROSTIN	SULT	OTIQA
INDRE	ANTE	OWIT
MOSES	YISS	NITINE

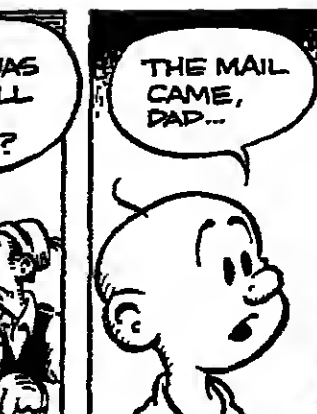


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Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



WORLD

Sri Lanka's far left goes underground

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government, battling to end a wave of ethnic violence, has arrested leaders of the banned pro-Moscow Communist Party, but top leaders of two other outlawed leftist groups had gone underground, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

Those arrested included the Communist Party Secretary General, K.P. Silva, the editor of the party's daily newspaper, H.G.S. Ratnayake, and at least one other member of its political bureau, spokesman Douglas Liyanage said.

Mr. Liyanage said orders had been issued for the arrest of 31 people, including the leaders of two other outlawed parties, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front) and the Nawa Samaja Samaja Party (The New Socialist Party). Eighteen of them had been arrested by noon.

Mr. Liyanage said the three top men of the extreme left People's Liberation Front and the leader of the New Socialist Party had so far

eluded security forces.

He warned the public that harbouring wanted men was an offence punishable by a fine and up to five years in jail.

Sri Lanka Tuesday appeared to be pulling back from the brink of chaos after a week of ethnic violence in which at least 215 people died and hundreds of offices, shops and homes were destroyed.

The government Tuesday relaxed an island-wide curfew for the second consecutive day and no major incidents of violence have been reported since Friday evening.

Government offices and many private businesses reopened Tuesday morning and long queues again formed outside banks and food shops. The curfew was to be

reimposed at 3 p.m. (1145 GMT).

The government declared a long list of businesses "essential services" under emergency regulations, making it compulsory for employees to report for work.

Top of the list were those involved in food distribution. The government said it was bringing in vegetables to the capital by train and trucks to ensure adequate supplies.

The government said it was tightening censorship regulations for the press and limiting the movement of journalists during curfew hours.

It imposed a blackout on news about the movement of more than 50,000 Tamil refugees in the Colombo area, but said many were being moved to the northern Jaffna District where most of the country's Tamil population live.

Refugees are being taken by ship in the North and some are being air-lifted by helicopter.

On Thursday, the government is due to present legislation to Parliament that will effectively

outlaw the main party of the Tamils, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), which has 17 seats in the 164-member assembly.

President Junius Jayewardene has said he will outlaw all groups that espouse separatism, even though the government has admitted the TULF has had no direct role in the latest bloodshed.

Back to normal

Bustling crowds streamed past the blackened shells of burnt-out buildings Tuesday as a semblance of normal life returned to Sri Lanka's riot-torn capital for the first time in a week.

People stood in long queues outside food and liquor shops and banks. Many were just glad to be out in the open as an island-wide curfew, imposed to curb ethnic violence, which claimed at least 215 lives, was lifted for a few hours.

Outside one shop more than 100 men were queuing for liquor.

"There's not much else to do but have a drink during the curfew," said a 45-year-old labourer who had come into town specially to stock up on spirits.

Women in brightly-coloured saris hurried to restock empty larders before reimposition of the curfew in the mid-afternoon.

Troops in battle-fatigues paraded Colombo streets, while police armed with rifles controlled queues outside some shops.

Beggars and traffic wardens were out again as tourists, confined to their hotels during curfew hours, visited shops and restaurants in the central Fort district, or stood in line for airline tickets out of country.

Traffic jams returned to the heart of the capital and Colombo's bright red buses jostled with modern Japanese cars and ancient Morris Minors from Britain.

Many families were straining under the confinement of the curfew.

"It's a battle just to keep from going mad," said a mother of five

who was waiting in a line beside a wagon distributing rice. "The children can't go into the streets, so naturally they get bored indoors."

Food is not being rationed, but shopkeepers are limiting the purchases of each family to prevent hoarding.

In the bazaar area a few vegetable stalls were open, but many traders had stayed away.

Journalist expelled

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government said Tuesday it was expelling a journalist from the United States news agency United Press International (UPI) for alleged violation of censorship regulations imposed during ethnic unrest.

Government spokesman Douglas Liyanage said Stewart Slavin, UPI's Delhi-based South Asian regional manager, was told to leave for transmitting material turned down by the government censor.

Delhi backs protests in Tamil Nadu

NEW DELHI (R) — A government-sponsored protest strike against the ethnic violence in Sri Lanka began in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu Tuesday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

The agency said train, bus and air services stopped throughout the state and factory workers did not report for duty as the 14-hour general strike came into force early in the morning. Normally bustling streets looked deserted.

The strike was called by the state's ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) Party to express Tamil Nadu's anguish over the clashes between majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamil community in Sri Lanka.

The riots in Sri Lanka are a major issue in the state, whose predominantly Tamil population has strong ethnic and cultural links with the Sri Lankan Tamils.

State officials said railways, airports, ports, post offices, the stock exchange and all markets will remain closed. The government declared a holiday for offices and schools.

To demonstrate the central government's solidarity with the Tamil sentiments, Mrs. Gandhi ordered all government offices in the state to be closed for the day.

State Chief Minister V.G. Ramachandran said New Delhi had never before joined in a state-sponsored strike. "This shows that the centre treats the Sri Lanka problem as a national issue," he said.

But the Indian Express newspaper said in an editorial Tuesday that the central government's formal participation in the strike by closing its offices was unwise.

"Any feeling in Sri Lanka that India is even indirectly patronising or backing the Tamils can only sharpen the Sinhala-Tamil divide in the country," it added.

In the Indian capital, several hundred Delhi university students demonstrated in front of the Sri Lankan High Commission Tuesday to protest against attacks on Tamils in Sri Lanka, police said.

About 60 students of the opposition Congress (S) Party's youth wing, carrying posters and shouting slogans, were arrested for blocking traffic, police added.

They had earlier burnt an effigy of Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene before the mission building.

South Asia initiates regional cooperation

NEW DELHI (R) — Seven South Asian countries Tuesday initiated a programme of regional cooperation to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development.

The programme was formally launched with the signing of a declaration at a meeting of foreign ministers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The seven countries have a total population of about one billion.

The meeting took place in the shadow of ethnic violence in Sri Lanka off India's southern coast, but the declaration stated that bilateral and contentious matters would be excluded from discussions on regional cooperation.

Six foreign ministers signed the declaration Tuesday. Shahul Hameed of Sri Lanka signed Monday before leaving for home after attending the first day's session.

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who inaugurated the meeting Monday, said the grouping was not aimed against anyone else and its members were not moved by any ideological or military considerations.

The programme is for cooperation in agriculture, rural development, telecommunications, meteorology, health and population, postal services, transport, science and technology and sports, art and culture.

Other objectives listed by the declaration include closer cooperation with other developing nations and with international and regional organisations.

The declaration said the participation of each country in the financial costs of the programme should be voluntary.

It said a committee will be established at the level of foreign secretaries for coordinating and monitoring regional cooperation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain ready to aid Sri Lanka

LONDON (R) — Britain is willing to consider providing aid to help Sri Lanka over its communal strife, Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said Tuesday. Sir Geoffrey said the government was concerned about the situation and had advised Britons to stay away from the troubled island, where recent violence between Sinhalese inhabitants and the minority Tamils has cost more than 200 lives. He strongly implied any aid would be humanitarian in nature. Asked in a radio interview what the British government could do to assist Sri Lanka, he replied: "If there is any way we can help them, in terms of reducing human suffering or anything like that, we would be willing to consider it."

Irish cardinal says youth was murdered

ARMAGH, Northern Ireland (R) — The leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland Monday accused a British army regiment of murdering a Catholic youth, Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich was speaking at the funeral of Martin Malone, 14, who was shot dead in Armagh by a patrol of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) two days ago. The cardinal said he had strongly condemned the murder of four UDR men last month. But he added: "How can one pronounce the deliberate killing of a member of this force as murder and the deliberate killing of an unarmed bystander by a member of this force as anything less than murder?"

Woman confesses to killing 3 men

KEMPEL, West Germany (R) — A 67-year-old West German woman has confessed to poisoning to death two of her husbands and a lover over the past seven years, police said Monday. Maria Veldt, arrested last Monday, admitted murdering her 88-year-old third husband last year by inheriting his \$10,000-a-month (\$20,000) savings, a police spokesman told a news conference. Ms. Velden, told by the head of the local murder commission to have the mild manners of a "laureate aunt," told police she killed her second husband, who was 67, in 1976 and a lover in 1981, after arguments. Doctors had attributed all the deaths to natural causes, but one of her daughters-in-law told police recently Ms. Velden had said after a row: "If you did not obey me you could end up like my husbands."

French deserter admits killing 4

CLERMONT-FERRAND, France (R) — A 23-year-old deserter from the French Foreign Legion has confessed to four murders committed over the past year in the rugged Ardeche Region of central France, police said. They said Pascal Blanc was arrested in the town of Le Mont-Dore after being trailed from a nearby camping site. They said his tent contained a sawn-off shotgun and a hand grenade. Blanc had been sought by police since the July 1982 murder of Michele Petit, who ran a home for juvenile delinquents in a small town near Clermont-Ferrand. He was also suspected of killing two young holiday-makers from the northeast town of Nancy, whose bodies were discovered in a cave in an Ardeche forest last April, and a Marseilles public works employee whose body was found last week.

Girl sets new snake-sitting record

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — An 18-year-old South African girl, Sherlene Swanepoel, has set a new world record for living in a cage with venomous snakes. South African television reported. At noon Monday she passed the previous 66-day record and said she would remain in the cage with mambas, cobras, boomslangs and other snakes for another 24 hours. Sherlene, who was allowed out of the cage for only one hour each day, told reporters recently: "I think it will take me at least six months or a year, maybe forever to get over this experience." Asked Monday why she had done it, Sherlene replied: "It was pure madness."

Peronist leader bleak about amnesty law

BUENOS AIRES (R) — A civilian government in Argentina could not reverse the effects of an amnesty law for human rights offenders in the security forces planned by the present military junta, Peronist leader Inacio Luder said Monday.

Mr. Luder, widely tipped to become the Peronists' presidential candidate in elections on Oct. 30, said that even if parliament repealed such an amnesty law, its effects could not be annulled.

"From the juridical point of view, if the government promulgates the law, its effects will be irreversible," he said in a radio interview.

"This must be said clearly, because we cannot deceive public opinion," Mr. Luder said.

The junta has said that, before the elections to return Argentina to democracy, it plans to promulgate a law granting amnesty to former leftist guerrillas and members of the security forces accused of human rights abuses in anti-

guerrilla operations between 1973 and 1982.

But the proposed law has run into opposition from human rights groups, most political leaders and several leading churchmen.

Human rights groups estimate that 6,000 to 30,000 people disappeared during the security forces' crackdown on the guerrillas. Most are believed to have been kidnapped and subsequently killed by government forces.

Raul Alfonsín, the presidential candidate of the Radical Party, has said repeatedly that, if elected, his government would repeal any amnesty law passed by the military.

Sources close to Mr. Alfonsín said that any legislation passed by the junta which was not subsequently ratified by parliament could be considered null and void.

Mr. Luder said an amnesty law passed in present circumstances would be rejected by public opinion, but added nothing could be done about this.

Nicaraguan leaders meet U.S. envoy

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's leftist leaders met briefly with U.S. special envoy Richard Stone and then promptly received a Soviet foreign ministry official, spotlighting their key position in an ideological tug-of-war in Central America.

Mr. Stone spent an hour with junta chief Daniel Ortega and foreign minister Villegas D'Escoto Monday as he wound up his third tour of the region. The subject of their talks was not disclosed, but both sides described them as useful.

Thirty minutes after Mr. Stone left for Washington, secretary general of the Soviet foreign ministry Yuri Fokin joined Mr. Ortega and Foreign Minister D'Escoto at a press conference.

Father D'Escoto said he accepted Fokin's invitation to Moscow to discuss the next meeting of

the United Nations General Assembly.

Nicaragua's ties to Moscow have been a source of friction with Washington, which accuses Nicaragua's leaders of trying to export Marxist revolution throughout Central America.

The friction has flared on the border of Nicaragua and Honduras, the United States' closest ally in Central America, to threaten a war with the markings of an East-West confrontation.

Mr. Stone told reporters his talks with the Nicaraguan leaders had been "very broad and the results useful and positive. The conversation will continue in the future."

A Nicaraguan foreign ministry spokesman said the talks with Mr. Stone were "useful" and that Nicaragua would continue its efforts toward peaceful resolution of

the region's conflicts.

Mr. Stone's visit to Nicaragua followed a meeting on Sunday with a leader of the Salvadorean guerrilla movement in Bogota.

The meeting was the first contact between the U.S. Central American envoy and the guerrillas fighting a bitter civil war against the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador.

Colombian President Belisario Betancur, who engineered the meeting, said Mr. Stone talked for two hours with Ruben Zamora, a leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, the political arm of five Marxist-led Salvadorean guerrilla groups.

Mr. Stone has not commented on the subject of his talks with the Salvadorean guerrillas. The United States and the Salvadorean government have said in the past that discussions would be limited

to the guerrillas' participation in upcoming elections, tentatively set for later this year.

Diplomatic efforts to avert war between Honduras and Nicaragua are being led by the so-called Contadora group of countries — Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama.

A meeting of nine Latin American foreign ministers ended last weekend without agreeing on a definitive peace proposal, but further meetings are due to be held this month.

The Soviet official, Mr. Fokin, told the Nicaraguan leaders at the press conference that they had Moscow's support in searching for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

"We support all the efforts of Nicaragua in this direction," he said. The United States has also expressed support for the Contadora group's efforts.

Reagan urged to reconsider export controls

NEW YORK (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz and Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige have urged President Reagan to lift or ease controls on the export of U.S. oil and gas equipment to the Soviet Union, the New York Times reported Tuesday. It cited administration officials as saying the proposal was submitted to Mr. Reagan at the end of last week and he was expected to accept it, at least in part.

The Times said Mr. Shultz and Mr. Baldrige proposed either a complete lifting of controls on oil and gas equipment sales or as easing to permit the sale of pipelayers which Moscow has sought for construction of the Siberian natural gas pipeline.

The newspaper quoted administration officials as saying Moscow had shown interest this year in buying 200 pipelayers — tractors with special booms that place oil and gas pipes in trenches — from the Caterpillar tractor company.

Officials expected that Mr. Reagan might agree to relax restrictions on the pipelayers, but possibly not on other equipment such as electron beam welders and high-quality drill bits. The Times said.

The Times noted that the United States and the Soviet Union last Thursday announced a new long-term agreement under which Moscow is to increase its minimum annual purchases of U.S. grain by 50 per cent for the next five years.

Aeroflot passengers, crew awarded

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet airline crew and passengers who foiled a hijacking attempt on an internal flight last month have been awarded medals. TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

It did not specify how many of the crew and passengers had been decorated.

TASS reported in July that one hijacker was killed and another arrested when they tried to commandeer a Soviet plane on a flight from Moscow to Tallinn, capital of the Soviet Republic of Estonia, and take it outside the Soviet Union.

It said none of the crew and passengers had been hurt thwarting the hijackers.

Reagan denies discrimination against 'women, handicapped, other minorities'

ATLANTA, Georgia (R) — President Reagan has vigorously defended his administration against charges by political foes that he has neglected the needs of blacks, women, and the poor.

Addressing the American Bar Association's annual meeting in Atlanta, Mr. Reagan said he had an "unshakable commitment to eliminate discrimination against blacks, women, the handicapped, and other minorities."

He said his administration has appointed women to top government jobs at a record pace and had lifted more criminal suits over civil rights violations than any

previous administration.

He branded as "hogwash" charges that his recent appointments to the civil rights commission threatened its independence and he rejected allegations that his economic policies favour the wealthy.

Monday's speech was part of a stepped-up White House effort to blunt allegations that Mr. Reagan's policies discriminate in favour of the affluent, whites, and males.

The president's political strategists say this issue will be one of the most serious obstacles to his re-election next year should he decide to stand.

Mr. Reagan said he appointed the first woman supreme court justice and that three women, including U.N. ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, serve in his cabinet.

"In our first two years, we appointed more women in top policy posts than any administration before us — and I think that's a pretty good start," he added.

To claims that he attempted to stifle the independence of the civil rights commission which monitors enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, he responded: "Forgive me, but that's hogwash."

India careful about Sri Lankan riots

By Bernard Melusky
Reuters

NEW DELHI (R) — India is steering a careful course as it copes with a volatile situation off its southern shores in Sri Lanka, where at least 215 people have been killed in a week of ethnic violence.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government has come under increasing public and political pressure to do something to end the violence in Sri Lanka between Sinhalese and minority Tamils.

Most of the deepest passion over the plight of the Tamils is expressed in the South, especially in the Tamil-majority state of Tamil Nadu. Mrs. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party is in opposition in three of the four southern states, including Tamil Nadu which is ruled by a regional party.

Her government appears anxious to do two things in its approach to the Sri Lankan problem, which flared last week as a Sinhalese backlash to the killing of 13 soldiers by Tamil separatist guerrillas.

In the first place, say diplomats, it wants to show the maximum concern for the plight of Tamils caught up in the backlash. Secondly, it wants to avoid any charge of interference in the internal affairs of another country, especially as India is current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The last summit of the 111-member Non-Aligned Movement, in Delhi five months ago, reaffirmed "the need for strict adherence to the principles of non-intervention and non-interference."

Mrs. Gandhi has veered between expressing anxiety about Indian nationals and Tamils and urging restraint and a cooling of emotions.

To demonstrate her solidarity with Tamil sentiments, Mrs. Gan-

dhi ordered all government offices in Tamil Nadu to be closed to coincide with a one-day general strike there in protest at the violence in Sri Lanka.

Diplomats say, in view of the domestic and international considerations, it was an astute move on Mrs. Gandhi's part to send Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to Sri Lanka last week.

Mr. Rao's one-day visit included talks with President Junius Jayewardene. It ended with an Indian offer to help in relief and humanitarian assistance, including sending a ship to take displaced Tamils from riot-torn areas to the Tamil-dominated North of the island.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Some critics have alleged that in its anxiety not to displease Sri Lanka it tended to be over-cautious in not speaking out in stronger terms before the violence got out of control.

Opposition spokesmen and leading politicians from the South have demanded tougher action, ranging from ultimatums to Sri Lanka to raising the matter with the United Nations.

But some commentators have appreciated Mrs. Gandhi's dilemma in dealing with a small neighbour without appearing to wield the big stick. Smaller countries of the region are often acutely suspicious of the intentions and aims of a giant and powerful India.

Talking tough to tiny Sri Lanka, at least in public, would not have added to India's stature or image," the Hindustan Times newspaper observed in an editorial.

Mrs. Gandhi herself touched on these regional sensitivities when she opened a meeting of seven

South Asian foreign ministers in New Delhi Monday, though she did not refer by name to any other country.

"We don't want to take on more problems. Our policy is not to interfere in the affairs of others. But ours is a troubled region ... it would be idle to pretend that we are not affected by what happens elsewhere."

Foreign Minister Rao, in a statement to Parliament earlier, was more specific in explaining that "developments affecting the Tamil population in Sri Lanka give rise to feelings on the Indian side and can create situations of strain," he said.

Mr. Rao was giving the background to a diplomatic row that erupted between India and Sri Lanka even before the outbreak of large-scale violence.

Colombo alleged interference in its affairs after Delhi expressed its views about emergency measures to combat Tamil separatist guerrillas.

Mrs. Gandhi last Saturday demonstrated her concern over the worsening situation in Sri Lanka by cutting short an up-country visit so she could get a personal assessment from Mr. Rao on his return to Delhi from Colombo.

The following day she received a delegation of political leaders from Tamil Nadu.

Some of the team suggested India should urge the United Nations to send a peace-keeping force to Sri Lanka.

Mrs. Gandhi apparently demurred and asked the politicians to ensure that popular passions were not aroused over the Sri Lankan violence.

"However deep are our feelings, we must try to control them," she was later quoted as telling a group of Congress (I) political workers in Delhi.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ975 ♠AQ5 ♦K87 ♠Q10
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

What action do you take?
A.—Only someone with a reckless disregard for his pocketbook would take another bid. Even if you find partner with a maximum 10 points, your combined holding is unlikely to stretch to nine tricks, particularly since partner almost surely has no more than two spades.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K95 ♠AQ872 ♠AQ32 ♦5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—This hand might, or might not, produce a game. It depends on where partner has his values. The way to find out is to make a trial bid of three diamonds. If partner bids anything other than three hearts, go on to game.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠94 ♠9863 ♠Q1095 ♠93
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?

A.—In the long run, it is a losing tactic to let partner play one no trump when you have a weak, distributional hand that includes a five-card major. The hand invariably plays better in your long suit, because you can usually score a few tricks by ruffing. Bid two hearts.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠109652 ♠5 ♦QJ72 ♠872
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A.—In terms of point count, you really do not have enough for any action. Still, you do have the spade suit, and its preemptive value should not be underestimated. We would respond one spade, which might succeed in shutting out the enemy's heart suit. And if partner raises spades, even vigorously, the hand might play quite well.

Q.5—North-South vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQJ872 ♠K95 ♦5 ♠A62
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♦ 4 NT Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—If you did anything other than pass, you have let the opponents bluff you out of a slam. The Blackwood bidder is the captain of the band. He asked for aces and you showed your two. He then selected six diamonds as the final contract. If that was not partner's intention, he had other ways to bid the hand, probably starting with a cue-bid of four diamonds.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q652 ♠J95 ♦Q872 ♠93
Partner opens the bidding with two spades. What do you bid now?

A.—This is a textbook hand. Jump to four spades. That shows good trump support, and no first- or second-round control in any side suit—not even a void or singleton. Doesn't that describe your hand exactly?